WSCF-AF Regional Committee (ARC) Meeting
Abunja, Nigeria

WSCF-AF has New Executive Committee

SCM Namibia visits the former Head of State, Sam Nujoma

Jennifer speaks how she has grown into a better leader with great knowledge and skills

ACTIVITIES REPORT
FOR THE
WORLD STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION (WSCF)
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**Cover page:**
Delegates to the 2019 WSCF Africa Regional Committee (ARC) meeting in Abuja, Nigeria.
Dear SCMers, partners, friends and readers,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are pleased to introduce this edition of WSCF Africa Region Newsletter in form of report. First of all let me thank God for this wonderful opportunity he has given us all to serve the federation in our different capacities. As we plan for the future, let us know that the past has gone for us to learn and the present is here for us to deliver.

WSCF Africa Region is still operating under very precarious and difficult financial circumstances. I am therefore appealing to all senior friends, partners, national movements, friends and all WSCF members to focus on the future than to dwell much on the past.

The Region has great leaders, we need such leadership so that we can make the federation that we want. We need to tap into that resource to advance our agenda and for sure it will take all of us to bring about the radical transformation that we so much need. Let us all start acting as leaders don’t wait for the secretariat to push things. If anything, the Regional office should just be there to coordinate.

I would also like to call upon all the SCMers, senior friends, partners, friends and all WSCF members to join hands as we lead the revitalization of WSCF national movements and help strengthen the financial base of the federation in the region.

We should make sure that our ideas, aspirations as well as our expectations are put in place. In any institution, criticisms are always there but for now, let us continue building our federation together and by-and-by we will be developing some strategies with big plans. Sometimes change is so painful but change brings change. The change that we would like to see is here now, it is you and me and indeed together we can, in unity there is power.

We also need to create a forum where young people will interact and share their best practices, experiences, beliefs and knowledge among others. This will surely be time to hear immense wisdom from students, witness their struggle and faith.

In terms of Bible and Theology which am coordinating, I have noted and observed with great sadness that Christianity is becoming undermined all over the world, evil doing is becoming acceptable and many do not fear spending their eternity in hell. I would like to encourage each one of you to put much effort on Bible study. We are in the course of preparing theological materials for the forthcoming WSCF 37th General Assembly to take place in Germany, 2021 God willing.

I would like to thank Albert Kisimba Lumbwe, the Chairperson of the outgoing Africa Regional Executive Committee and the entire committee members for the encouragement and support rendered to me when I came in as the new staff member. The committee (Albert, Theodomir, Shali, Isatu, Paul, Lydia and Edgar) really helped me a lot.

Let me congratulate the newly elected Africa Region Executive Committee (Rev. Dr. Eric Ebidehiane Ighalo, Rev. Mary Mwiche, Victor Mkandawire, Facia Harris, Raselyn Kudwor, Theodomir Niyonsenga and Willy Matusa) I wish each and every member of this committee good luck and God’s blessings.

Let me also thank Georgine Kengne Djeutane our global Chairperson, Necta Montes our global General Secretary, the global Executive Committee members and fellow global Regional staff members, national movements, partners and friends for the support. I really thank you all for making our daily work easy.

Finally, I would like to ask each one of us to consider praying hard, working hard, integrity and unity.

Wishing you God's blessings. May God the Almighty bless WSCF and its leadership. Long live WSCF.

Thanks you.

Christopher Gervas Chimangeni
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Dear National Movements,

It is with great joy we are able to reach you all with this means of communication, which by God’s Grace will remain constant through the life of this new African Executive Committee.

As you are all aware, at both Regional and International levels, we are in very difficult periods that require clear practical solutions. Added to all these is the Global Health Crisis - the COVID-19 pandemic. This has forced a postponement of the GA and our participation. Our region is financially broke and Movement activities dwindling. There are fears and anxiety on all sides.

How should we as leaders respond in our constituencies? What message should we carry to those we lead and what message would these annual and quarterly reports bring to us all? I believe it is the message of Romans 8: 31-32 as well as that of Psalm 46:1-2. We need to remind all that our call to and work among students and Senior Friends is first a Spiritual mandate rooted in Christ. God is on our side not against us. He remains our Refuge and Stronghold.

The focus on the new African Exco is for stronger National Movements in terms of numbers, growth, activities, projects and finance. As National Movements, we need your cooperation to work together on this. It is critically important for all of us to work together in Truth with a spirit of excellence. We need to have regular reporting to the African office so as to know the State of each Movement... and identify where to help. We are now in a season where we have to run the African Region with resources largely from the region. Together, we can make it happen. I believe.

Enjoy this report. God Bless.

Rev. Dr. Eric IGHALO
Chairperson

REMARKS BY THE WSCF AFRICA REGION CHAIRPERSON ELECT

- Rev. Dr. Eric Ehidiame Ighalo -

My contribution to the work of the Federation will be to leave behind much more larger and financially stronger WSCF-AF that is able to adequately interpret the Federations Life and Work in Africa as well as capable of deploying human and financial resources to other regions of the Federation to support her interventions in whatever way possible. We will also help to ensure an enhanced, balanced spirituality and theological reflection throughout the life of the federation.

My very recent doctoral thesis was basically on “Building a financially Sustainable Model for faith-based non-profit organizations with the SCM of Nigeria, Lagos Sector as a case study”. My professional area of work is financial planning and advisory. In this capacity, I have not only been part of several for profit fund raising/financing activities, but also part of local and international fund raising and grant writing efforts not for-profits including the SCM of Nigeria.

A BROAD OVERVIEW OF ERIC IGHALO’S INVOLVEMENT IN THE SCM NIGERIA AND THE FEDERATION WORK

Rev. Dr. Eric Ighalo became a member of the SCM of Nigeria in 1983 at the University of Nigeria, Enugu campus. Since then, he took keen interest in the life and mission of the Movement largely because of its theology of the “Bible in one hand and the Newspaper on the other”. Its ecumenical leanings added a lot of positives and strength to his Christian growth and commitment. He became very active and thirty years down the line as a Senior Friend, student at higher degree levels and an active financial professional-have remained very active. Eric has just ended his tenure as the National President of the SCM of Nigeria. At the local level, he rose in leadership position of the Movement and led their delegates to the 100years Centenary celebrations of the WSCF in Ivory Coast. He served as the Project Coordinator of the movement, State Coordinator as well as National Secretary before he got selected to represent the WSCF in a Training In Mission Program for one year in two continents, Europe and the Caribbean. This afforded him the opportunity of internship with the British and Jamaican SCM.

Rev. Dr. Eric Ighalo has severally represented the Africa Region in a number of International events especially when he served as the Africa representative on the World Exco Committee.

Today, he serve as an active Senior Friend and involved with a number of faith-based development agencies who are championing holistic integral mission, humanitarian interventions and advocacy matters for internal displaced persons.
The World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) was founded in 1895 in Vadstena, Sweden with the aim of uniting movements or associations of Christian Students throughout the world. It is a non-governmental organization that has consultative status with UN category II through ECOSOC and in operational relations with UNESCO.

WSCF is a global community of Student Christian Movements committed to dialogue, Ecumenism, social justice and peace.

Our mission is to empower students in critical thinking and constructive transformation of our world by being a space for:

⇒ Prayer and celebration
⇒ Theological reflection
⇒ Study and analysis of social and cultural processes and
⇒ Solidarity and action across boundaries of culture, gender and ethnicity

Through the work of the Holy Spirit, the WSCF is called to be a prophetic witness in church and society. This vision is nurtured by a radical hope for God’s Reign in history.

It also seeks to promote cooperation among young people in working and advocating for socioeconomic justice, peace, human rights and responsible and accountable leadership in the world.

The World Student Christian Federation was founded on the 17th to 19th August 1895 in Vadstena, Sweden. WSCF was founded with the aim of uniting movements or associations of Christian Students throughout the world.

The WSCF is a global community of Student Christian Movements committed to dialogue, ecumenism, social justice and peace. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, the WSCF is called to be prophetic witness in Church and Society.

It also seeks to promote cooperation among young people in working and advocating for socioeconomic justice, ministry and ecumenical dialogue across culture, gender and race. It does so through engaging students in study and analysis of social, political and economic issues and actions from an informed Christian perspective.

Our mission is to empower students in critical thinking and constructive transformation of our world by being space for; Prayer and Celebration, Theological reflection, Study and Analysis of Social, Economic and Cultural Processes, Solidarity and action across boundaries of culture, gender and ethnicity.

In a bid to achieve our goal, WSCF Africa Region in 2017 carried out and participated in trainings and workshops. Various courtesy visits, from our partners also saw through, a successful long term partnerships strengthened.

WE ARE INVITING YOU TO READ OUR ACTIVITIES REPORT ON OUR WEBSITE AND JOIN US IN PRAYER AND ACTION FOR THE CONSTRUCTIVE TRANSFORMATION OF OUR WORLD.

KEY AREAS OF WORK IN THE YEAR
⇒ Communication
⇒ Fundraising
⇒ Networking
⇒ Bible and Theology

“Sometimes change is so painful but change brings change. The change that we would like to see is here now, it is you and me. Indeed together we can, in unity there is power…,”

Christopher Gervas Chimangen, 2019 WSCF Africa Regional Committee (ARC) meeting, Abuja, Nigeria.
The Africa Regional Committee (ARC) meeting is the highest decision making body of the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) Africa Region.

The 2019 ARC took place at the Divine Love Retreat and Conference Centre (DRACC), Sabo-Lugbe, Abuja FCT, Nigeria from 2nd to 6th December, 2019. It is held every two years or within a period of four years. The ARC is also mandated to explore and discuss various political and social issues in the region. It is at the ARC meeting that new Executives are elected for the Africa Region. It is during this meeting also that reports from various National movements are presented and analyzed and also recommend the affiliation or association of all other movements that wishes to do so.

The theme of the ARC was “Rejoice in Hope” (Romans 12:12) Young People, Journeying Together Towards Justice and Peace which is also theme for the WSCF 37th General Assembly in Zwinglikerk, Berlin, Germany.

Participants for the 2019 ARC were drawn from various Student Christian Movements (SCM), senior friends, partners, Church representatives, and some of the members of the Executive committee. Countries that were present were the host Nigeria, Malawi, DRC, Uganda, Burundi, Togo, Liberia, Ghana, Rwanda, Zambia and Tanzania.

The meeting was also attended by representatives from Anglican Communion, CAN FCT, Vanguard newspaper, YOWICCN, King Square Assembly, RCCG North America and M.P.N Abuja among others.

The opening ceremony took place on the 3rd December, 2019 with senior friends, invited guests, staff and student leaders among others in attendance.

After the recitation of the national anthem of Nigeria, SCM'S anthem and opening hymns respectively, the introduction of some dignitaries followed. After which Rev. Eric Ighalo presented a good will message on behalf of the former WSCF African Regional Chairperson (the Very Reverend Godfrey Ejike) who in his speech welcomed the various delegates to Abuja and encouraged the Federation to always remember that they are faith based and their decisions should be Biblically based.

Afterwards, a welcome address by the National President of SCM of Nigeria, Evangelist Onyemobi Oguazi followed, who in his address also welcomed the various delegates and other dignitaries to the special meeting. In his address, he equally made mention of SCM of Nigeria in partnership with Tearfund Nigeria, organized several campaigns to promote clean energy policies in Nigeria. In partnership with the Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN), the movement participated as election observers in several states in the February Presidential election. In March 2019, marked the International Women’s Day (IWD) which

Continued on page 7
promoted women empowerment, and advocated to end all forms of violence against women. In August 2019, SCM of Nigeria in partnership with Edo State Human Trafficking Taskforce held an advocacy program tagged ‘Stand Against Human Trafficking, Depression and Suicide.’ In October 2019, held the International Girl Child Day (IGD) and advocated to end all forms of sexual abuse of the girl child. Also in September 2019, SCM of Nigeria issued a Press Release to condemn the xenophobic attacks against foreign nationals and their businesses in South Africa, and the retaliatory attacks on businesses with South African interests in some countries. The movement called for a peaceful resolution of the conflicts through dialogue, specifically called on President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, who was an SCM leader in his University days to do all within his power to put an end to the attacks. That effort seemed to bear fruits as President Ramaphosa soon apologized, and the attacks stopped. The SCM of Nigeria is using this forum also to call on the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to reverse the recent decision of the Federal Ministry of Interior to impose exorbitant amount for the issuance of Marriage Certificates in Nigeria, and impose onerous requirements for the approval of marriage licenses for Places of Worship. SCM of Nigeria considers the regulation of the Federal Ministry of Interior as oppressive and exploitative, as its impact on the marriage institution and on the youths of Nigeria will be grievous. The policy is out of touch with the needs of the Nigerian youths many of who are already struggling with inflation and unemployment. Such policy is bound to be a precursor for increase of sex outside marriage and out of wedlock births. “SCM of Nigeria is also advocating that the Governments should go the way of broad consultation in formulating polices that would impact the fabric of the lives of the people. We will be willing to offer consultative assistance to our policy makers on issues relating to our youths whenever we are called upon,” he said.

Other dignitaries that delivered their speeches were the Primate of the Church of Nigeria, Anglican Communion (the Most Rev. Nicholas Okoh) represented by Venerable Nnandi Okpunho, who encouraged the federation for the need of integrity and unity as this will take the federation far, the president of the youth arm of CCN represented by Pastor Samuel, the Chairman Board of Trustee, SCM Nigeria, Otegbande and WSCF Africa Regional Executive, Christopher Chimangeni who in his speech expressed his satisfaction with the logistics by the host nation and encouraged all to give their best to the federation and embrace change though sometimes is painful but according to him he said change brings change.

The gathering had a chance to connect with WSCF global General Secretary, Necta Montes through Skype. She reminded the group about the General Assembly (GA) what is expected from the federation during the GA, such as, reports. She said the GA will take place from June 4th to 11th 2020 at a place called Zwinglikerk in Berlin, Germany and said that there is need to identify the status of each member movement. Necta also said that next year General Assembly; we shall mark 125th anniversary of WSCF and the General Assembly shall receive, consider and approve WSCF Strategic Plan (2020 to 2024).

According to her, the GA shall elect the four officers, regional members of the ExCo, approve or disapprove the candidacy of the General Secretary, vote upon changes in the Constitution, and decide application for membership affiliation and review the status of membership according to the WSCF constitution.

She further said that the General Assembly will celebrate the landmark of the Federation through various cultural expressions and performances through dances, songs, art exhibits, poems and connections sharing the dreams and hopes of young people.
Finally there were questions asked from the grouping of which she duly responded to.

The Presence of Pastor Oluwasayo Ajiboye, the President of the Bible School at the United States of America (USA) owned by the Redeemed Christian Church of God was recognized and welcomed. Pastor Oluwasayo encouraged WSCF Africa Region for their efforts towards propagating God's word in Africa. He equally encouraged the group to be actively involved in partnership, he also promised to support the group if called upon.

During the ARC, Albert Kisimba the Chairperson, updated the gathering about the health status of the federation especially the Regional office. This was due to the request made by the gathering that they want to know the state of things at the Regional headquarters.

He explained that there has been an administrative problem since the departure of the former Regional Executive, Rev. Amos Kamugisha Mushendwa followed by another Exco member, Lydia Nabunya’s resignation.

Having seen the complex nature of the above situations in Nairobi the ARC resolved to set up an ad-hoc committee for the situation who shall make up make up resolutions as regards to the situation and to present its report the next day. The members of this ad-hoc Committee were Evangelist Onyemaobi Oguazi (SCM Nigeria), Pastor Paul Enikanselu (SCM Nigeria), Mr. Felix Aklavon (SCM Togo), Miss Roselyn Kuduvor (SCM Ghana) and Rev. John Kamoyo (SCM Tanzania).

The ad-hoc committee for the Nairobi intervention read out resolutions via her Chairperson, Evangelist Onyemaobi Oguazi before the delegates made their inputs and these resolutions were reflected in the final resolutions made at the ARC meeting.
The World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) African Regional Committee (ARC) meeting resolved as follows:

1) That the African Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya be relocated to Malawi where the Regional Executive is based. This is so due to financial challenges and this resolution was also made at the 2000 ARC in Abokobi, Ghana.

2) That the Executive Officials of the Africa Region be authorized to appoint someone to take custody and administer the assets of WSCF Africa Region in Kenya.

3) That the Regional Executive of WSCF Africa Region operate and discharge the duties and responsibilities of his office from wherever he is or wherever the Region chooses.

4) That henceforth, all communications with and to WSCF Africa Region be directed through the Regional Executive or Regional Chairperson.

5) That WSCF Africa Region opens a new bank account.

6) That a continental Advisory Board composed of former Regional Executives/Secretaries and Regional Chairpersons be formed for consultative purposes for the Regional Office.

7) That an ad hoc Reform Committee be formed to tackle the present challenges of the ARC, and to propose changes that will help the Region to develop.

8) That every National Movement that is presently run as an arm of another national organization be encouraged to strive to be independent in order to gender stability and progress of the Movement.

9) That the delegates from each National Movement be increased to three (3) in order to increase participation, with at least one of the delegates being a female.

10) That as resolved at the ARC meeting held in Abokobi, Ghana in 2000, we resolve to align with the position of the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) and the Christian Council of Churches of the National Movements in Africa, that the thematic area of IDD is not an African Regional priority, and we, as a Region are not in support of mainstreaming the LGBTQ agenda in the WSCF.

The motion for the adoption of these resolutions was moved by Felix Aklavon, SCM Togo and seconded by Willy Masaka, SCM DRC.

A Personnel Committee report was presented by Isatu Ville Cheeks who said she replaced by Lydia Nabunya from Uganda after she resigned on personal grounds. She encouraged the Federation to think of ways of cutting down cost seeing the poor financial state of the WSCF African Region. The issue of Administrative and Finance Officer in Nairobi was also suggested to the federation to come up with best possible ways to tackle the matter.

Finally, the Africa Regional Committee (ARC) meeting elected the new Executive committee. The position of Chairperson went to Rev. Dr. Eric Ighalo of Nigeria the position which was occupied by Albert Kisimba from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) while Rev. Dr. Mary Mwiche Zulu from Zambia was elected Vice Chairperson the position which was in the hands of a Rwande, Theodomir Niyonsenga. Victor Mkandawire from Malawi scooped the position of Treasurer which has been with a Namibian, Shali Kapepo.

The World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) 2019 ARC also voted for Facia Harris a Liberian as an Exco (Personnel Committee), and Roselyn Kuduvor a Ghanaian as Proxy (Personnel Committee). These two positions had been occupied by Paul Nguimgo from Cameroon and Lydia Nabunya respectively.

Willy Masaka from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was voted as an Exco (Finance Committee) and Theodomir Niyonsenga from Rwanda as a Proxy (Finance Committee). These positions were formerly occupied by Isatu Ville Cheeks from Liberia and Edgar Munatsi from Zimbabwe respectively.
This has been a journey and great experience that Jennifer Muthoki Mutua will carry in her heart always. She loves humanity, peace and working with her fellow young people. WSCF-AF believed in her and presented her this beautiful opportunity. She now realize her strengths and abilities better. Jennifer had never worked on project implementation within the Region before, it was only her dream. “Thanks to WSCF-AF, I worked with the team that implemented Leadership Consultative workshop in Antananarivo, Madagascar,” she said.

Being in the lead team exposed her to all the pressure to deliver. It nurtured and created a better version of her in this field. When she had to prepare the comprehensive report, she stepped up and did it when she wasn’t sure if it was adequate enough. She was so happy when the Partner organization were satisfied with it. Working on various content that the organization has used widely, has been one of her phenomenal experience. The reports, newsletter, website, social media content, emails, day to day interactions among various presentations.

Jennifer will forever be grateful for this specific opportunity. Working and interacting with her peers as they seek to model Christ like leaders, has been a journey that she will continue even in days to come. Jennifer has grown into a better leader, with great knowledge and skills.

“With the recommendation letters I can now advance in my studies and explore my full strengths and potential. Thank you WSCF-AF and United Methodist Church of Britain for orchestrating this for people like me to grow in to better personnel with exponential potential to make the world a better place,” she added.

According to her, she can only wish and pray that this will continue and affect more lives. Her biggest prayer is that God will keep refreshing and nourishing WSCF-AF and United Methodist Church of Britain.

Proverbs 11:25 (The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed).

THE FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI, RIGHT HONOURABLE EVERTON CHIMULirenji commended CYAMA for giving an opportunity to the Malawi nation to follow the proceedings of this year’s national commemoration event of the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) through a live broadcast on one of the radio stations for youth and children in Malawi, YONECO FM Radio Station. The former Vice President, made these remarks on 20th October, 2019 at Ntangaye Primary School ground in the area of Senior Chief Liwonde in Machinga district where Malawi held a national commemoration event for the 2019 IDDR. After a successful live coverage of a panel discussion on disaster prevention measures which was held on 19th October, 2019 at Hippo View Lodge at Liwonde in Machinga district, CYAMA proceeded to the following day to a venue where IDDR commemoration event was held.

Apart from coverage, CYAMA also mounted a pavilion where the organization showcased its disaster prevention as well as response mechanisms. “In a special way, I would like to thank CYAMA for organizing this event and also media houses, particularly YONECO for covering this event,” said the Vice president. Among other things, CYAMA raises awareness about climate change and disaster prevention measures.
through special radio programs, Community roadshows, rural film screenings as well as community theatre for development campaigns.

On the other hand, CYAMA also displayed its disaster intervention like the Helpline caravan as well as the various feedback and complaint mechanisms (CFMs) which the institution uses with support from the World Food Program (WFP).

“Our stake is also rooted in the fact that disasters greatly affect the youth, women and children who happen to be the core target groups of our work. Thus, we always do our level best to ensure that these issues are given the necessary attention,” explained the National Coordinator for CYAMA, Phillip Chinkhokwe.

The event was commemorated under the theme “Build to last; substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and education facilities including through developing their resilience by 2030.”

CM Malawi, the Christian Youth Association of Malawi (CYAMA) members of staff reached young people from various youth clubs with awareness messages on climate change and adaptation measures in Lilongwe district. Among other things, the awareness messages emphasized on the use of fuel efficient rocket stoves, establishment of communal forests, irrigation farming, organic fertilizer making and growing crop varieties which mature quickly. The youth were further urged to walk the talk and stop relying on handouts for survival.

Climate change is one of the challenges that have greatly affected the mainstay of people in Malawi especially those who live in rural and remote parts of the country. Recently, Lilongwe has been affected by dry spells, and heavy rains which sometimes cause flooding. The meetings were also attended by various religious and traditional leaders. The leaders who were present, avowed to give the young people all the necessary support they would need in this endeavor.
Lydia Gambatula of Chiseka village in Traditional Authority (T/A) Chiseka will always remember the SCM Malawi, Christian Youth Association of Malawi (CYAMA) particularly for the Gender Based Violence (GBV) awareness campaigns which the movement conducted in May, 2019.

Though she could not remember the exact date that CYAMA came but she remembers her Group Village Head (GVH) announcing that CYAMA will be coming to conduct awareness campaigns in the area. She rushed to the ground when it was around 10 O’clock in the morning.

CYAMA under the Essential GBV Services and Prevention Project conducted a series of campaigns in the areas of T/A Chiseka in Lilongwe district. The campaigns were aimed at raising awareness about GBV and the teams explained some of the causes and its manifestation as well as publicizing the available reporting structures. This struck Lydia because it was something that was happening at her home.

She faced a lot of GBV and thought it was just the way women live. Culturally, she grew up believing that women should be subordinate to men. Lydia stated that she has failed to fully participate in income generating activities because of the same male-chauvinistic tendencies.

After the sessions, she approached one of the members of the Community Action Groups (CAG) and narrated her story. The CAG visited their house and they called for a discussion with involved parties up until the matter was resolved with concrete resolutions.

To Lydia, the awareness that CYAMA conducted in their area on that day has left a big mark in her life. She further appealed for more campaigns on these in other areas so that a lot of people can know where to get help.

The awareness campaign on GBV are being conducted in T/A Chiseka, Lilongwe and T/A Kuntaja in Blantyre by CYAMA with financial support from HerVoice through Adolescent Girls and Young Women Gender-Based violence Services and Prevention Project.

Women dancers (in green) during the awareness campaign on GBV

The SCM Malawi, Christian Youth Association of Malawi (CYAMA) conducted awareness sessions on the dangers of drug and substance abuse at Chinsapo, Traditional Authority Malili in Lilongwe district. Addressing the students during the awareness session, Aubrey Majawa, who is the movement’s Programs Manager pointed out the negative effects of drug abuse on one’s health which he said hinders students from realizing their goals in life.

Cementing on Majawa’s remarks, Traditional Authority Malili who was also guest of honour to the event advised the students to desist from using drugs because they may result in making poor choices. T/A Malili further explained that some young people have contracted Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) as a result of unprotected sex due to the influence of drugs or alcohol.

T/A Malili also encouraged the students to access counselling and critical information about drug and substance abuse at the CYAMA offices, Police and some relevant offices dealing with the same.
COURTESY VISIT TO THE FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF NAMIBIA NATION

SCM IUM paid a courtesy call to the Founding President and the Father of the Namibian Nation, His Excellency Sam Nujoma on the 19th to 21st April, 2019 at his farm (Etunda, Otavi).

The visit was under the theme; “Listen to your parents for better decisions, in search of solution to social issues.”

The visit was motivated by serious socio-economic issues that are confronting the lives of young Namibian. Social threats and nobody is safe from all those threats, be it socially or economically. The issue of passion killing, unemployment and division in religious was at the centre of the discussion.

In addition, the prime objective was to find solution to division in religious because of denominations and unemployment to enable us to get the root of social illness.

PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION AGAINST GBV

With an increasing number of GBV reported cases SCM of Namibia marched calling for peace and unity amongst others. A peaceful demonstration was held to sympathize with community after citizens lost live through brutal shooting by the Namibian Defence Force.

SCM shall not watch from a distance the community the sufferings and immoral treatment, especially vulnerable and marginalised community (women and Children). SCM shall stand, run and walk the talk and be the voice of the voiceless.

The society becomes so evil we shall strive for the betterment of our people, we embark on the journey of bring people close to God the creator. We make Jesus King.

During the annual conference held from the 4th to 6th October, 2019. The group marched into the street of Outapi Town to advocate for peace for all and create awareness Gender Based Violence (GBV). The convoy led by the Namibian Police Force.

Peaceful marching by students advocating for peace and ending the GBV
The Southern Region reaches out to the vulnerable people at Keetmanshop from the 16th to 18th August, 2019. The Students Christian Movement (SCM) Southern Region reaches out to the vulnerable people in Keetmanshop. The region hosted its first conference outside Windhoek and as part of the Christian duty to reach out to the less fortunate. They asked the Halualaj Church to identify at least 10 houses that members of SCM could visit, donate foods, clothes and do laundry for the vulnerable people in the community.

In the group of 10, they visited different houses and some visited the Churches to preach the gospel of God to the sick people. The region attended the Church service, and one of their members gave the word of encouragement through the sermon.

**THE EASTERN REGION EDUCATIONAL TOUR**

The two branches, Andimba Toivo yaToivo SS and Rev. Juuso Shikongo SS SCM planned for an educational tour from the 25th November to 1st December, 2019 to the coast, Swakopmund and Walvis Bay. The tour had 65 learners and three branch presidents and they were accommodated in Owato Lutheran Parish in Swakopmund.

The Student Christian Movement (SCM) of Namibia has record number of 6000 active members with more than 165 active branches in the 6 active regions. The Movement is affiliated to the Council Church of Namibia (CCN), National Youth Council of Namibia (NYC) and then World Student Christian Federation (WSCF).
Background of the Program

SCMZ created platforms to allow students and young people to discuss their expectations of the 2020 National Budget, with the goal of having youths being actively engaged in decision making processes members of society. SCMZ was involved in the 2020 National Budget consultations and shared their input on how the budget should incorporate young people and their interests. It is imperative that young people be actively involved as they constitute, much of the Zimbabwe’s population and are the most affected by economic strains.

Program Activities

SCMZ held dialogue meetings on how young people can be involved and influence decision making processes such as the national budget consultations, debates and reviews. The discussions were among representatives from youth organizations, Members of Parliament and students and other duty bearers on budget considerations and how to be actively involved in the process.

This dialogue meeting was therefore a follow up meeting with youths and students reviewing the Auditor-General’s report for the past two financial years, noting the trends and scrutinizing areas which need improvement and allocation of more funds. Students and young people came up with National Budget considerations which were recommended during the budget consultations through several different platforms such as statements, inception meetings, TV and radio programs.

Results

Young people showed interest in contributing to the national processes, thus shaping policies as it affects through more social accountability processes. Need for more youths to actively participate in these consultation processes and hold duty bearers accountable to public resources and services. The outcomes from the members and participants from the dialogues, WhatsApp, and other social media platforms were summed up into a statement and presented on our national media platforms engaging other youths nationally and giving feedback to the governor’s office and other government departments.

Evaluation

It had been expected that the financial statement should ensure that young people have fair and adequate access to the opportunities and conducive platforms that enhance, develop and enable them to maximize their capacity and further development. The 2020 National Budget made efforts to prioritize the needs of young people through directing funds towards job creation and entrepreneurship, youth employment and tax incentive, National Venture Capital Fund, Women, Youth Empowerment and SMEs, and the Protecting of Intellectual Property Rights. Students in tertiary institutions applauded the inclusion of Innovation Hubs in the National Budget. However, there still is need to decentralize innovation hubs from tertiary institutions to communities i.e. direct funds to community-based innovations as targeting tertiary institutions only will marginalize other young people.
CM Zimbabwe’s vision envisages ‘a just, peaceful and transparent society in which young people enjoy equitable resource allocation and equal opportunities in education, career guidance and employment.’ Under the same vision 2019 was a year in which we engaged young people within various tertiary institutions to curb the wave of gender-based violence. This is so, in order to promote the inclusion of women in the education sector as well as promote gender equality and equity in tertiary institutions. The main goal for such agenda it to decolonise the minds of young people, which believe in patriarchy that women should be submissive to men in all aspects of their lives.

In commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism that took place from the 25th November to the 16th December 2019, we conducted an interactive panel discussion with students and youths from local schools and tertiary institution who echoed their views and understanding on issues regarding violence against women. In the discussion they expressed deep concern pertaining gender issues they come across in their institutions. Hence they took the opportunity to call for elimination of any form of violence against women in solidarity with the rest of the world. The program was streamed live therefore had other participants join and participate online on the @SCMZimbabwe Facebook page. After the session, there was a screening of the movie called Lobola that spoke to the circumstances African women go through in our society.

Students excited for the engagement and interaction about such issues they experience. The participants gained a broader understanding on the commemoration of the day its essence. They also gained vast knowledge sharing experiences from vast backgrounds hence on the abuse women in our communities face. Students got well informed on the human right and are now more conscious on how they should treat girls and women themselves in the society and homes. A recommendation to raise more awareness given them as participants are given the platform to talk to others e.g. SCMZ facilitating more frequently discussions, dialogues and campaigns on such topics including other topical issues/SDGs. The deliberations brought about some ideas and recommendations to curb such problems in tertiary institutions.

Social issues, such as gender, equality and equity actually affect students and young people in general. As a result, it is important to start looking at measures and ways to assist students. This will create conducive environments for them in their academic space. Students will in turn be able to exist among each other without social issues that increases disparities, negligence, intolerance and hate. It is of utmost importance that institutions alongside the Ministry of Higher and tertiary education and civil society organisations set aside funds that will be of use to come up with initiatives to concertize and bridge the gap.

“Both my husband and myself are senior friend of the WSCF Africa I was Programme officer at the AFRICA regional OFFICE in Nairobi in 1974-1975 and was regional rep from 1975-1979. My husband James Oporia-Ekwaro was assistant general secretary in Geneva until 1976. We would like to be in touch with you and have access to some of the archives in your office related to the publication Presence Africaine and Bethel Kiplagat who was its editor as we are writing an article about Kip (who passed away in July 2017) as one of the first WSCF African regional coordinator...” Micheline Ravololonarisoa
SCM-UG is undergoing a process of revival letters have been written to three Universities namely:
- Makerere University
- Uganda Christian University
- Ndejje University.

FUTURE PLANS
- The movement is planning to re-launch SCM Uganda starting with the three above mentioned Universities.
- After the re-launch other Universities and higher institutions of learning will be reached at to open up chapters.

CHALLENGES
- Finances to do the administrative work.
- School administrations denying students to do their final Exams even though they registered with the National Authority in charge of National Exams.

The movement is working so hard to see that SCM Uganda is vibrant and impactful.

STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT OF GHANA

Student Christian Movement (SCM) of Ghana was established in 1947 long before Ghana gain her independence. The movement is a diverse and dynamic grassroots oriented student movements, growing and expanding across all the 16 regions in the country. With over 45 secondary schools, affiliated movements and 15 associated universities campus chapters nationwide they intend to reach out to 2 million students across the length and breadth of the Ghana by 2021.

Like WSCF global, SCM Ghana is faith motivated, living in ecumenical fellowship and witness. They come from diverse denominations and Churches brought together by their belief in Lordship of Jesus Christ in their lives. Current membership stood at 21 which include 10

Theme
Inculcating Leadership in the young Christian through effective stewardship dubbed “Every person add value to our community”

Interim National Executive
The following constitute the National executive body:
- National President: Amewugah Prince Henry
- Secretary: Roselyn Tede Kuduvor
- National Treasurer: Kenneth Yeboah
- Senior Friends Coordinator: George Asante

Membership
Like the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF), SCM Ghana is faith motivated, living in ecumenical fellowship and witness. They come from diverse denominations and Churches brought together by their belief in Lordship of Jesus Christ in their lives. Current membership stood at 21 which include 10

Roselyn Tede Kuduvor: National Secretary for the SCM Ghana (Centre)

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Students, 6 Non Student and 5 Senior Friends but they intend to work with other faith based organization such as Christian Camping International Ghana, Scripture Union of Ghana, Compassion International, and Youth Desk of Christian Council of Ghana among others. The process used for their strategic plan was based on the identification of key issues confronting the Student Christian Movement in Ghana. Over the past couple of years, the activities of the movement experienced a dip amid serious challenges. These challenges are categorized under the following bulleted thematic areas:

1. Finance
2. Operational
3. Finance
4. Operational
5. Leadership
6. Coordination

In view of the challenges mentioned, a Strategic Direction Team (SDT) was set to identify the most significant strategies and solutions to resolve the issues confronting the SCM Ghana.

This team comprised representatives of senior Friends and the Interim Executives, partners and other stakeholders.

“We express appreciation to God for the WSCF Global, Regional secretariat, National chapters, communities and partners we serve and their families for their continued support of Student Christian Movement in Ghana. Your support has been an essential part of this growth and planning process. We are grateful to our Senior Fellows whose support, advice and directions has contributed to the restructuring agenda for the year under review…,” SCM Ghana

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**SCM ZAMBIA**

**THEMATIC OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE MOVEMENT OF ZAMBIA**

- Sharon MOOLA -

**Bible and Theology**

- Reflective and contextual reading of Biblical texts
- Affirm human dignity as a core foundation to attaining holistic Salvation
- Raise awareness to critical thinking and faith actions on issues of social justice

**Environmental Education and Sustainability**

- Advocacy on environmental sustenance
- Engage in greening the environment
- Education on environmental issues and mitigation thereof

**Health and HIV/AIDS**

- Raise awareness of sexual reproductive rights amongst students

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**Train peer educators on health and sexual reproductive rights**

**Create an environment of safe space (s) for counselling, testing and positive living**

**Gender Initiatives**

- Advocacy in Gender transformation and mainstreaming in student institutional leadership
- Gender education
- Mitigate GBV in Educational institutions

**Human Rights, Democracy and Public Policy Engagements**

- Develop a general understanding of human rights and how they are related to the school/community environment
- Introduce content and methodology of human rights education for school students

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**Facilitate networking and partnership activities among students**

**Impart skills in students that enable them to hold their constitutional leaders accountable**

**Leadership Formation**

- Capacity building of all ZSCM structures

**Networking & Partnerships**

- Strengthen the Senior Friends Network
- Engage ARC and IRO on WSCF thematic areas
- Host a regional SCM Conference

**Fundraising & Financial Policy**

- Create a local financial support for ZSCM
- Engage financial institutions for programme support
- Institute financial policy for ZSCM
The SCM of Nigeria is a vibrant youth movement committed to teaching and mentoring young people, especially those in Secondary and Tertiary Institutions, to be proactive agents of transformation and positive influence in the society. The SCM provides forum for fellowship, study, discipleship and exemplary leadership, guided by the teachings from the Bible and influenced by the power of God. SCM of Nigeria was founded in 1940 by Dr. Akanu Ibiam, the Governor of Eastern Nigeria in the First Republic, and Chief T.O. Ejivunmi, the former Secretary to the Governor of Western Nigeria. It is an associate member of the Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN) and has its National Headquarters in Ibadan, Oyo State. It has branches in 36 Tertiary Institutions and over 810 Secondary Schools across the country. SCM of Nigeria also has over 60 Senior Friends and Alumni Fellowships in Nigeria and in diaspora.

The vision in SCM of Nigeria is to set the Movement as a dynamic force in galvanizing youths for true spiritual worship, moral transformation, nation building, social activism and political consciousness. The youths are the backbone of every society. They possess the greatest potentials of strength, skill, intellect, stamina and creativity. SCM of Nigeria is committed to doing her best to harness these potentials of their youths, using the principles of the word of God and under the guardianship of the Holy Spirit. The movement is also doing our best to stand as a prophetic voice in our nation to protect the interest of the weak and vulnerable, especially among the youths.

SCM of Nigeria in partnership with TEARFUND Nigeria, organized several campaigns to promote clean energy policies in Nigeria. In partnership with the Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN), it participated as election observers in several states in the February presidential election. In March 2019, it marked the International Women’s Day in which it promoted women empowerment, and advocated to end all forms of violence against women. In August 2019, SCM of Nigeria in partnership with Edo State Human Trafficking Taskforce held an advocacy program tagged “Stand Against Human Trafficking, Depression and Suicide. In October 2019, the movement held the International Girl Child Day and advocated to end all forms of sexual abuse of the girl child. Also in September 2019, SCM of Nigeria issued a Press Release to condemn the xenophobic attacks against foreign nationals and their businesses in South Africa, and the retaliatory attacks on businesses with South African interests in some countries. It called for a peaceful resolution of the conflicts through dialogue. It specifically called on President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, who was an SCM leader in his University days to do all within his power to put an end to the attacks. That effort seemed to bear fruits as President Ramaphosa soon apologized, and the attacks stopped.

The SCM of Nigeria also once call on the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to reverse the recent decision of the Federal Ministry of Interior to impose exorbitant amount for the issuance of Marriage Certificates in Nigeria, and impose onerous requirements for the approval of marriage licenses for Places of Worship. SCM of Nigeria considers the regulation of the Federal Ministry of Interior as oppressive and exploitative, as its impact on the marriage institution and on the youths of Nigeria will be grievous. The policy is out of touch with the needs of the Nigerian youths many of who are already struggling with inflation and unemployment. Such policy is bound to be a precursor for increase of sex outside marriage and out-of-wedlock births. SCM of Nigeria is also advocating that our Governments should go the way of broad consultation in formulating polices that would impact the fabric of the lives of the people. It will be willing to offer consultative assistance to its policy makers on issues relating to its youths whenever it is called upon.
In September, 2019 the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) Africa issued a statement to governments and Head of States on xenophobia attacks that some South Africans have unleashed on foreign nationals in South Africa. Below was a statement released.

**AN URGENT CALL TO END XENOPHOBIC ATTACKS**

The World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) which comprises about 27 national Student Christian Movements (SCM) in Africa writes to expresses its uttermost disbelief and sadness on the inhuman, barbaric and xenophobic attacks that some South Africans have unleashed on foreign nationals in South Africa. WSCF an NGO which has a consultative status with the United Nations (Category II) through ECOSOC and with UNESCO community, strongly condemns this inhuman attack that includes damage to foreign National's property as well as that belonging to some South African entities. WSCF-AF is deeply troubled having realized that since the attacks have been taking place sporadically over the past decade or so our leaders in SADC, let alone AU have not issued any condemnation whatsoever which smacks a lot of hypocrisy and lack of unity promotion which the different blocs advocate and stand for. Such silence is very wanting and leaves a lot to be desired.

WSCF-AF would like to remind all South Africans and the entire continent that we, in our united efforts, fought Slavery, Colonization, and Apartheid and managed to bring our own self-rule. It is therefore so sad that Africans have degenerated into fighting themselves for reasons that are nonsensical. Africans have nobody to blame but themselves. In establishing the Organization of African Unity (OAU), SADC etc, it is clear that our great Fathers of the Nations appreciated that there is strength in unity. WSCF-AF is so disheartened as the fights are between Black people versus fellow Black people (regardless of their origins i.e. India, China, Nigeria, Malawian, Zambian, Zimbabwe etc...). WSCF-AF wonders as to who is behind these acts? Are we being taught to hate one another or we are just too intolerant to each other?

It is thus saddening that even the recently held SADC Summit of Heads of Government never discussed the situation in South Africa as it has never stopped. The South African Government also behaves as if this is not an issue at all. Not even the SADC Secretariat nor the AU Secretariat have launched serious investigations to appreciate the situation for the betterment of Africans. Only if it were to do with elections, the whole entourage would convince itself to go to that country. As a Christian Federation, we express our great reservations over AU’s, COMESA’s and SADC’s among other bodies’ conduct over the matter. This is very barbaric a behaviour from our block representatives which needs urgent stopping.

We would like to tell our South African brothers and sisters to keep in mind the fact that you have your relatives too elsewhere and we too can bite, we too can burn, we too can chase as we have had enough. However, we are not savages and barbaric. We wish to remind South Africans that when they had bad times, we helped one another keep and develop our countries. We are as we are because we have grown together- we cannot be chased out like chickens or pigs. We belong to South Africa and Africa as a whole! Don’t make others vent their anger on South African businesses and people they are residing with in their countries. THESE BARBARIC ATTACKS MUST STOP FORTHWITH!!!!

**OUR URGENT CALLS**

As WSCF-AF, We URGENTLY call upon the Secretariats and Governing bodies of the AU, SADC, COMESA, UN, SADC NGO to look at these issues through an emergency session of Heads of Government and Missions. Let them dialogue over the developments as they have effects of spreading to the rest of the region and continent if nations would want to defend their interests and relatives in South Africa.

In this context, we urgently appeal to the;

a. African Governments to openly condemn these acts and assure all Africans in South Africa and those who have been victimized their personal freedoms and rights including the right to protection and assistance where need arises through various African offices in RSA.

b. SADC to issue a statement condemning these barbaric acts and put the South Africa Government on the spotlight towards stopping the acts and compensating all persons who have suffered loss due to the current acts.

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c. The SADC should convene an extraordinary session of the Heads of States to dialogue and resolve on the matter once and for all, in the best interest of peace in the SADC region.
d. SADC NGO should convene an emergency council of the NGOs in the SADC region for united actions and responses to the situation while avoiding any acts of immediate revenge as this will have dire consequences to the rest of the SADC region.
e. SADC should consider putting on its agenda the need to remove Trade and Free Movement of People Barriers i.e. VISAs and other taxes as a means of inculcating a sense and culture of co-existence among people of the SADC region. We are convinced the process of asking foreign nationals to go and renew their permits every month alienates them from locals and it sticks in the locals’ minds that regardless of how successful a foreigner will be in South Africa, he remains a foreigner and that is already a trigger mechanism to hate them - if they make progress in life.
f. African Union to likewise issue a condemnation of the attacks and hold the South African Government to account on these heinous acts.
g. The need for the United Nations (UN) and entire Heads of Missions in all African countries, NGOs and the State to convene an urgent session to review these acts as they affect our national unity and coherence including devising measures to protect Malawians abroad and South Africans in Malawi from retributions should any attempts by locals be initiated.

WSCF-AF would like to request that something MUST be done by Government and States at least in the next 21 days. We believe that this is the only time our leaders urgently acted against these attacks once and for all.

We look forward to your urgent feedback and actions accordingly.

Sincerely Yours,

Christopher Gervas Chimangeni
Regional Executive for Africa and Global Program Director for Bible and Theology
World Student Christian Federation (WSCF).

WSCF HOLD AN INTER-REGIONAL PROGRAM ON IDD

The WSCF Inter-Regional Program on Identity, Diversity, and Dialogue (IDD) in partnership with the Council for World Mission (CWM) was held on July 10th to 16th 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. From diverse identities but together belonging to the Federation’s ecumenical family of SCMs and churches in 20 countries namely; Kenya, Zimbabwe, DR Congo, Malawi, Zambia, Madagascar, Uganda, Rwanda, Nigeria, Canada, Brazil, Philippines, India, Bangladesh, Australia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, United Kingdom and Lebanon commit to
carrying forward the process of constructive dialogue which has just started for the first time in Africa in the hope of building an inclusive community for justice and peace where people of different sexual orientations and gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics are affirmed and celebrated. To this end, delegates express their shared understanding and prayers that this may serve to ground the framework of this continuing dialogue. Delegates to this event engaged in re-reading the Bible and developing their theological understanding of Human Sexuality, listened and reflected on the context and realities within the global North and South, and analysed the intersections of poverty, gender, sexuality, ethnicity and citizenship from listening to the stories and experiences of discrimination from the LGBTIQ refugees, rescued children, and women living with HIV/AIDS. In the process of dialogue, delegates acknowledged their diverse opinions on SOGIESC and interpretations of the Bible, particularly on homosexuality. Despite having diverse opinions, the group agreed to engage in dialogue on IDD.

The WSCF is the youth and student arm of the global Ecumenical Movement which promotes cooperation among Christian movements and associations in the world. It is made up of 118 federating national movements of SCM in 94 countries. The aim of WSCF is to call youths and members of the academic community to faith in God, to discipleship within the life and mission of the Church and to help them strive for peace and justice in and among nations. The African Region of WSCF is one of the six groups of WSCF units for nations in the continent of Africa. The African Regional Committee (ARC) is the highest decision making body for the 30 national movements of WSCF in 27 countries in Africa.