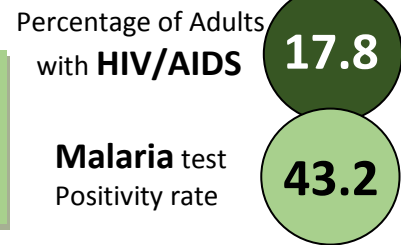


Over the past one year I've had the joy of visiting Maseno West nearly every month. It's a ten hour overnight bus from our base in Nairobi, but has become a second (or third) home. After a month-long mission in 2013 and growing friendships and partnerships, we've sensed a long-term calling to the region. Maseno West is located in the Western part of Kenya, running along Lake Victoria and near the border with Uganda. The Diocese includes the headquarters of the newly established Siaya County and has 44 parishes and over 150 churches. While nearly three quarters of the population is under the age of 30, there is **only one** full-time youth minister.



Quick Facts:

- Over **500,000** youth
- Over **150** Anglican churches
- **One** full-time youth minister



SAMS Missionaries, David and Lucy Chaves with Youth leaders in Siaya

Maseno West is predominately rural, home to mostly farmers growing maize, millet, and beans. It also features the headquarters for new county government and has great potential for growth and development. Yet there are high levels of unemployment, poverty, malaria, and HIV/AIDS. Unemployment is the greatest challenge facing youth, yet a host of local business opportunities remain unexploited. There is a dramatic need for holistic youth ministry, Christian discipleship, and empowerment in the region.

The local church in Maseno West has been unable to support enough full-time ministers and especially youth ministers. A single parish priest is often responsible for overseeing up to 10 churches while providing pastoral care to communities and schools covering broad geographic areas. As I learned during my many visits, this means up to two hours riding, pushing, and pulling a motorbike over bumpy dirt roads. Over the past one year we've met with friends who are doing wonderful work and this year the Chaves Family and Inspiring Hope Group are working with SAMS and the Diocese of Maseno West to support sustainable income generating activities, creating employment and providing regular income for youth ministry.

“Unemployment is the greatest challenge facing youth. . .”

We are seeking to raise:

- \$2,000** USD to help establish a youth restaurant and kiosk to create jobs and generate income for ministry.
- \$1,500** USD to train, equip, and run a printing press to serve Siaya County, donated by church members and run by Anglican youth.
- \$2,500** USD to match Diocesan contributions for groundbreaking on an Anglican guesthouse and youth centre.



Small group bible studies during youth conference.

We need your help

Donations can be made to SAMS to the Maseno West Diocese special project account under missionaries David and Lucy Chaves.