



# UNITED

Universities Together Empowering Development

## 2015 Global Leaders' Camp



# Executive Summary

The 2015 UniTED Global Leaders' Training Camp at FOCUS Campsite, on the shores of Lake Victoria, was the first of its kind, made possible by a generous grant by the Kosmos Foundation and a crowdfunding campaign UniTED ran in the spring, 2015.

Held on the 11-14<sup>th</sup> August 2015, it brought together 102 participants most of whom came from 14 universities around Uganda, as well as a group from the University of Oxford.

The purpose of the camp was to:

- Train students with the skills to lead UniTED Groups as 'Uniters', including community organizing, and empowering student social action;
- Create bonds of friendship between Uniters from different universities and countries - laying the groundwork for future collaborations; and
- Help students identify with UniTED's values and vision so that they passionately represent UniTED on their campus.

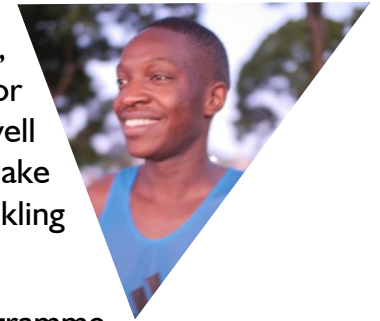
The hope was that, by the end of the camp, Uniters would be confident to return for Freshers' weeks and fulfill their roles, as well as being inspired to make a positive impact in tackling global issues.

Therefore, the programme was packed with both talks and activities to engender positivity and excitement about being one of the leaders of the UniTED community.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. 95% of respondents to our survey said the camp was either 'very good' or 'excellent' and 97% said they now cared more about global issues.

One student wrote: "the camp has really been helpful, inspirational and full of fun" and another said it "helped us to get friends and learn". The overall result is that we have expanded UniTED's scope, we now have a larger number of students that are now in a position to lead UniTED groups on university campuses, and have moved one step closer to creating a community of global changemakers.

We now are looking forward to this camp becoming an annual event on the UniTED calendar, and in a few years time being able to have such camps in countries around the world.







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# Activities





While training students in the particularities of leading UniTED Groups on university campuses was the focus of the week, we ran numerous activities designed to give students an opportunity to interact and build relationships with other future global change makers.



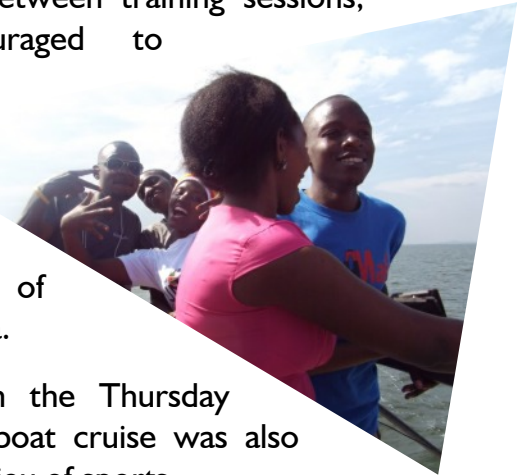
To ensure that students from across the country shared important experiences and built lasting friendships, they were all placed into mixed teams led by UniTED volunteers and initially introduced through 'ice breaker' games.

Each morning began with aerobics, designed to stimulate student's bodies and minds and prepare them for the day's training. Student volunteers led these sessions and as a result, the mix of aerobics was eclectic, varying from star-jumps and kickboxing to traditional Ugandan dancing and mediation.

Throughout the day, cards and board games were available for students to relax and bond in-between talks and other organised activities.



In the afternoons and between training sessions, students were encouraged to participate in team building sports such as netball, football and volleyball and were given the chance of swimming in Lake Victoria.



By popular demand, on the Thursday afternoon an hour-long boat cruise was also organised for students in lieu of sports.

All the activities encouraged students from various parts of the country to interact and socialise with like-minded individuals, helping to forge deep long lasting friendships.

Our running of a 'campfire discussion' every evening further allowed students to debate on pertinent local and global issues including 'Uganda's development' and 'global citizenship'. The debates were lively and stimulating and often continued into the small hours of the morning as the fire died down.

Due to the intensity of the week, students were encouraged to get as much rest as possible following the camp fire discussion and as a way of winding down the day, every evening we showed a film that reinforced some of the issues that had come out of the days training, such as 'Selma' and 'Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom'.

# Trainings

Of primary importance was to ensure that students had a coherent understanding of UniTED's mission and to communicate to them that they were part of something larger than themselves. Entwined with this were attempts to ensure that students had an extensive knowledge of global issues and their responsibilities towards these. Initially, these were presented to the students through a number of presentations.

As the week went on we moved further away from the theory of UniTED and global issues to concentrate on the practicalities of action. Specifically, training was based on the way in which UniTED groups on campus are run and involved, for example, the production of a campus newsletter and how to conduct action learning groups and brainstorming sessions.

Rather than spoon-feeding theory, we gave students hands on experience.

Everybody, for example, participated in two brainstorming sessions in the afternoon so that they would all be able to run these sessions each fortnight when back at

university. Similarly, we ran mock 1-2-1s so students got a practical feel for their responsibilities.

On Thursday, we had a guest speaker from the US Embassy address students on the ways civil society and government would like to engage students.

Students were also encouraged to participate in group discussions as well as to collaborate, primarily within the groups they had been assigned to at the beginning of the week. Students were encouraged to seek further clarification from UniTED volunteers on any aspects of our model which wasn't made clear.

At the end of the camp 94% of students said they were either 'confident' or 'very confident' to act as Uniter, despite the majority of students arriving without any background of leading a UniTED Group previously.



## List of Talks

- UniTED: Who We Are
- Starting a UniTED Group
- Community Organising
- Using Technology
- Annual Planning
- Working with Civil Society
- Action Learning Groups
- The Project Narrative
- International Collaborations
- UniTED: Where We're Going





# Evaluation

Despite this being our first experience of running a training camp, the feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive.

We handed out surveys to all students just before their final lunch on the Friday afternoon and received 37 completed forms. **95% of students** telling us that their overall experience was either 'very good' or 'excellent'.

In particular, the training camp seems to have dramatically changed the way that students view and approach global issues today. **89% of students** said that following the camp they felt more aware of global issues today and **97%** told us at the end of the week that they cared more about global issues. One individual tellingly wrote, "I personally appreciate all the efforts and experience I have got and I am ready to create impact in the society"; while another stated UniTED 'is an excellent organisation. I am privileged to be involved, the process is very well planned and streamlined and the organisation is very transparent.

**"I am ready to create impact in the society"**

Importantly, the survey also reveals that we were successful not just in training students in the theory of social action, but also in the practicalities of social action. Following the camp, **94% of people** were either 'confident' or 'very confident' to act as a Uniter.

The activities were also extremely popular. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being 'boring' and 5 being 'super fun', morning aerobics scored 4.3, afternoon sports and games receive 4.7, and the campfire discussions got 4.3

**"I love the initiative and pledge to do more"**

Nevertheless, there are areas to improve for future camps. In particular, **84% of people** thought that there was too much information presented over the four days. In part, this was probably reflected in the lack of handouts we provided during talks - a result of budget constraints. Consequentially, in future years, we will prioritise making more handouts and other means of presenting the information to make it more manageable. Additionally, we will look into the possibility of extending the duration of the camp by an extra day or two.





# Accounts

Item	Total	Total in USD (\$1 = UGX 3,500)
FOCUS Campsite	UGX 2,000,000	\$571.43
Food and Water	UGX 2,030,300	\$580.09
Transport	UGX 1,312,000	\$374.86
Printing	UGX 281,400	\$80.40
Sports and Games	UGX 242,000	\$69.14
Toiletries and Medicine	UGX 68,400	\$19.54
T-shirts for Volunteers	UGX 176,320	\$50.38
Bracelets	UGX 166,000	\$47.43
Planning and Development	UGX 5,000,000	\$1,428.57
Trainers Fees	UGX 2,000,000	\$571.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>UGX 13,276,420</b>	<b>\$3,793.26</b>



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Going  
Forward







Over the next few months we expect our newly trained Uniterers to return to their respective university campuses and put into action they're training in community organising and project support.

At each university, UniTED Groups should be producing a regular UniTED Campus Newsletter, a fortnightly brainstorming meeting, a fortnightly executive meeting, and regular 1-2-1s between Uniterers and students leading projects working for social change.

A key part of Uniterers' role will be signing up many new students to UniTED. By the end of 2015, we are targeting a network of 15,000 students and 300 projects at 15 universities. .

In this way, the success of the training camp clearly marks a distinctive progression for UniTED as an organisation. We now have a distinctive presence at all the major universities in Uganda and many of these UniTED Groups will soon be ready to be partnered with universities on different continents.

We hope to run a conference in 6 months time to bring together all the Uniterers around Uganda and take stock of their progress... awarding those Groups which have performed the best in meeting their targets.



By the end of the 2015/16 academic year we will be able to make a more rounded evaluation of Uniterers support to student social action projects, and adapt our programmes accordingly.

Next summer, we hope to be able to run another training camp in Uganda, having learnt the lessons from the inaugural 2015 camp. It may even be possible to run two camps in successive weeks to train 200 students, with many more coming from around East Africa and universities outside of Africa which can be partnered to Groups in Uganda.



This will play a large role in helping us reach our September 2017 target of having 300 Uniterers at 50 Universities, helping to manage a network of 25,000 students from 15 different countries and 600 student projects.

Looking further into the future, as our global networks and collaborations expand we hope to run training camps around in the world, helping the spread of UniTED partnerships to every university in the world.





UniTED is the global student community organiser for social action.

We unite and strengthen student volunteering through UniTED Groups at universities around the world.

These Groups act as local hubs for student social action - engaging more students in community projects and incubating their initiatives.

Our global database connects students around the world to collaborate together over the internet and exchanges, and we supplement this support with fortnightly emails to students and toolkits for projects.

Creating a new generation of global changemakers.



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