



Quarterly Newsletter 2



"Dear Friends and Supporters,
"There is nothing like a dream to create the future."

- Victor Hugo



Dear Readers,

As the year reaches its midpoint, so does our transformative journey in the Hatua Mpya. Currently in Debut 2, scholarship recipients are moving beyond foundational skills into deeper waters, where creativity, technique, and identity begin to merge.

Debut 1 was about orientation, unlearning, and raw discovery. But Debut 2 is the awakening—a space where participants now engage complex garment construction, pattern manipulation, mood boards, trend analysis, and machine handling. There's curiosity in their questions now. Confidence in how they hold the scissors. Intentionality in every stitch.

This is the season where doubt begins to fade and dreams start taking shape, not just in their minds, but in the clothes, they're learning to create

With each hemline, sketch, and brainstorm, Debut 2 is doing exactly what it was designed for, shaping learners into designers. We can't wait to see how they show up for the world when Debut 3 begins.

Wherever you are in your own journey, creative or personal, may this remind you that the middle isn't a pause. It's *becoming*. Stay the course.



Fact Zone

People with albinism typically have underdevelopment of the fovea, the central part of the retina responsible for sharp, detailed vision. This condition is called foveal hypoplasia, and it contributes to the reduced visual acuity commonly seen in individuals with albinism.

[https://www.aaojournal.org/article/S0161-6420\(18\)31727-5/fulltext](https://www.aaojournal.org/article/S0161-6420(18)31727-5/fulltext)



When Vision Meets Vision: ana antami Joins The Albinova Project

I hope it's not much for me to ask you, dear reader, to take a right turn to our corner of advocacy and inclusion. Yeah, right here. We are partnering with Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) and the University of South-Eastern Norway (USN) in a research and innovation initiative called The Albinova Project.

And no, this isn't just another academic paper-in-the-making. This is real research, rooted in real lives, with a mission to change how we understand and support vision in the context of albinism.

So, what is The Albinova Project exactly?

In short, it's a groundbreaking initiative focused on vision science, specifically looking at how albinism affects eyesight. Visual impairment is one of the most common and misunderstood aspects of albinism—yet it's often sidelined in mainstream eye care.

MMUST, with support from USN, is integrating specialized vision testing software (yes, the good kind that goes beyond the "read line 3" charts) to better assess visual acuity. This tech was developed by USN

and is being localized and embedded within MMUST's research and teaching infrastructure.

In simple terms: better tools, better data, better eye care.



Why ana antami is involved?

Because this is personal. Because it matters. And because you can't research people without involving the people themselves.

Our role in this partnership is to bring in the lived experience—our communities, our stories, our questions, our hope. We're here to ensure that this work isn't just scientific, but human. Not just about statistics, but about impact.



The project also includes community engagement and performance-based outreach—something we're genuinely excited about, because it aligns with how we work: creatively, inclusively, and publicly. If research is to change lives, it must be seen, felt, and understood by the very people it hopes to serve.

What this means going forward?

- ◆ **New knowledge** on vision and albinism—developed right here in Africa.
- ◆ **Reduced stigma** through public education and stronger advocacy.
- ◆ **Better access** to proper eye care, especially for young people navigating school, work, and social life with visual challenges.
- ◆ **A stronger bridge** between academic research and grassroots realities.

This is not just about eye health, it's about inclusion, visibility, and dignity. We are proud to be part of this journey.

Stay with us for updates.

This is only the beginning.

Stitches, Stories, and a Saturday at Double Shasa

Let's be honest—there's something exciting about walking into a real fashion house for the first time. It's like everything you've been practicing in class suddenly becomes alive. The fabric smells different. The machines hum louder. The creativity is almost...tangible.

That's exactly what happened this past Saturday when our Hatua Mpya crew walked into Double Shasa Ltd in Kakamega.

Armed with notebooks, big eyes, and even bigger dreams, our eight participants, who've been training for months in fashion and design, were finally getting to see what the real fashion world looks like beyond

the classroom. This wasn't just a field trip. It was a full vibe.

First Time Electric? Say Less!

The electric sewing machine was the main character of the day. For most of the team, this was their first encounter with it. Let's just say the first few minutes were filled with nervous laughs, awkward foot control, and plenty of "Wacha niangalie



kwanza." But after a few guided tries (and cheers from peers), they were sewing like they were born to do it.

Asa literally said, "So this is how tailors fly through orders! I thought they were just magicians!" 😅

From Knitting to Branding

Next stop? The knitting station. That machine looked like a mystery box until the staff showed them how thread, tension, and technique come together to create knitted magic. Then came embroidery—where they learned it's not just about making things pretty; it's storytelling in stitches.

They also got to ask questions about branding, fabric sourcing, finishing, and customer management. Some even whispered to each other, "Now I get why that one client I had complained... I wasn't finishing well!"

It hit different.

Meeting the Masters

What made this visit even more special was the Double

Shasa team themselves. They didn't just show. They shared.

Stories about how they started. What makes a fashion



business survive. How pricing isn't just guesswork. And how you can be creative and make money.

The energy was warm, real, and encouraging—like a stylish older cousin who actually wants you to win.

Full Hearts, Fuller Dreams

By the end of the visit, the group didn't want to leave. They were already making plans, sketching ideas in their heads, dreaming of their own studios one day. And honestly, that's what this was all about. Giving them a peek behind the curtain... and then watching them pull it all the way back with their own hands.

Big love and gratitude to Double Shasa Ltd for letting us in,

teaching us, and believing in the power of exposure.

These are the moments that sew self-belief into the hearts of young designers.



Are You The One?

Can you write truth that stirs hearts?
Frame a moment in a sentence?
Turn quiet impact into bold storytelling?

We're seeking a **Volunteer Communication Specialist**.

Someone fluent in clarity, bold with words, curious about people, and gentle with detail.

You'll help us:

- Shape stories
- Build digital presence
- Craft newsletters, social posts, blog pieces
- Echo unheard voices

A few hours a week. Remote or in-person. If you design or edit videos, that's a bonus.

✉️ Send a short paragraph or portfolio to applications@anaantami.org

Let your words find their next home.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Send CV to:
applications@anaantami.org

Communication Specialist

ana antami

Apply Before:
17th July 2025

Hatua Mpya Cohort II – Call for Applications

👉 Do your hands love to create?

Does your heart beat a little faster when you see colour, fabric, or form? Have you ever imagined yourself designing, sewing, styling, and being seen?

Hatua Mpya is calling.

We're inviting individuals with albinism and vitiligo, aged 16 and above, to apply for Cohort II of our 9-month scholarship-based training in fashion and design.

This is not just a course. It's a journey.

🧵 What you'll learn:

- Tailoring and garment construction
- Design thinking, sketching, mood boards
- Pattern drafting and machine sewing
- Embroidery, branding and finishing
- Professional confidence, self-expression, and storytelling through fashion

👗 You don't need a background in fashion, just the will to learn, create, and grow.

✉️ To apply, send your **name, age, county, passport photo, and a short note about why fashion matters to you** to:
applications@anaantami.org

Bank Details

Absa Bank

Account No: 2051129957

Name: ANA ANTAMI

ALBINISM CBO

Swift code: BARCKENX

Bank code: 03

Branch code: 026

Pay bill No: 303030

Donate to The Course

HATUA MPYA
COHORT II

9-MONTHS FASHION DESIGN TRAINING

- Are you passionate about fashion design?
- Are you 16+ years?
- Do you have albinism/ vitiligo?

If yes to all 3, we are looking for you.

Scholarships Available

APPLY NOW!

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📍 **HOLIDAY
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KAKAMEGA**

www.anaantami.org

Send CV to
applications@anaantami.org
Application Open Till:
23rd October 2025

🌐 Open to applicants across Kenya. We especially encourage voices from underrepresented communities.

Grab Your Spot Today!
Step forward. Design your power.
This is your Hatua Mpya—your new step.



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