

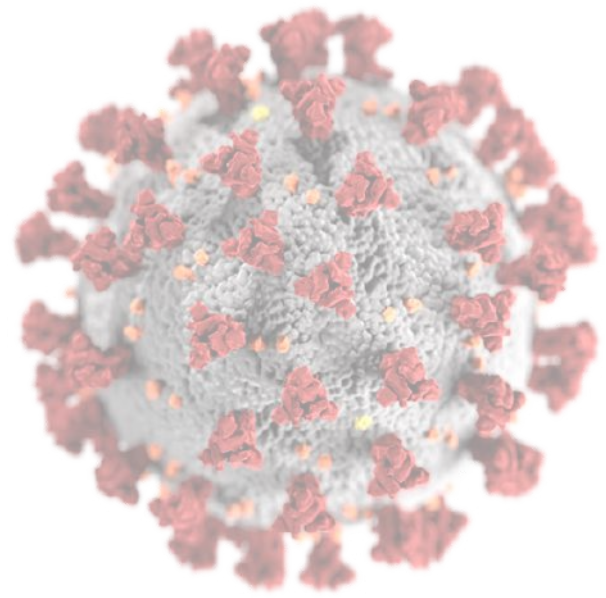


YALI REGIONAL
LEADERSHIP CENTER
EAST AFRICA • NAIROBI

ISSUE 12 - JULY 2020

THE LEADING EDGE

An Update for Partners and Stakeholders





YALI REGIONAL
LEADERSHIP CENTER
EAST AFRICA • NAIROBI

Office of the Chief of Party

When I joined YALI Regional Leadership Center East Africa (YALI RLC EA) in August 2019, I did not know what to expect especially having come from the health sector and now joining the education sector working with the most important dividend, the youth.

The YALI RLC EA, has continued to equip and build young African leaders with leadership skills that ultimately help them to make determined efforts to better deal with the leadership challenges across Eastern Africa.

Impact evaluation results show that there is an increased need for data driven evidence from our alumni to be able to measure the influence the program has had on them post program participation. It is against this understanding that some of our staff embarked on alumni outreach activities to various countries.

From January 2020, we travelled to Kenya (coast region), Ethiopia, Republic of Congo and Uganda. We had more countries to cover but unfortunately Covid-19 happened. A precedence for these trips was to have concrete information on the alumni in order to get a better understanding of their activities, application of the skill set and their contribution to creating empowerment activities across Africa. The specific objectives that were achieved during these trips include,



- Held focus group discussions with the Country Alumni Chapter officials to discuss their monthly and quarterly reporting and give feedback on the use of their report to achieve various goals.
- We visited various US Embassies and USAID offices to discuss potential collaborations in the respective countries for our alumni. The American Centers have been key venues that our alumni utilise in accessing various resources and for meetings.
- We also met potential host partners who were excited to forge a relationship with the Center and the alumni. They would be part of our alumni mentorship program and act as hubs for alumni empowerment initiatives.
- Documentation of alumni initiatives and success stories by doing field visits.

Alumni visits in the different countries was an excellent opportunity to measure the reach and impact of the program and as such, we made the most of it by getting one on one feedback, success stories as well as meet various stakeholders who support the program. Our communication office compiled the stories that you are going to read in this newsletter which capture impact stories of alumni we met during these trips.

Enjoy the read.

Achim Chiaji

Achim Chiaji

Alumni Chapter of Republic of Congo



The chapter had various activities from May 2019 when they took over office:

YALI RLC EA Alumni Meet Up

It was a capacity building session during which alumni exchanged ideas and experiences in the hope to keep making impactful work in their organizations as well as in their communities. There were a lot of deliberations and information exchange where alumni learnt a lot from each other. The Chapter officials used this as an opportunity to appreciate all the alumni who had never been formally welcomed into the Chapter since their commencement so that they network with others. This event was held at PM services, a venue owned by an alumnus.

Environmental Conservation and Awareness

Soprogi Primary School and Protestant High school needed intervention in matters regarding proper care of the environment. With a population of over 3,000 pupils, early intervention was required. Alumni saw it as a need to educate and visit these schools for a clean-up. Litter was scattered everywhere in the classes and the play grounds. Pupils threw plastic bags and sheet of papers anywhere without a care or ignorant of the repercussions of their actions. This was a priority issue and the Chapter organized public awareness campaigns where the strategy was a class to class awareness campaign to change the mindset of the pupils and provide them with trash bins and brooms. Alumni contributed 7 dollars each to be able to get all the necessary materials. They cleaned toilets, weeded and we also carried out an awareness campaign on Radio Magnificate FM as a way to impact more people to care for their surroundings.



**YALI RLC EA is now offering online training across
14 countries in East & Central Africa**

**Business & Entrepreneurship
Public Management
Civic Leadership**



#YALITransformation

For more information visit
<https://www.yalieastafrica.org>



Deloitte





Empowering Youth in Entrepreneurship

Vulcain Yengo
Cohort I, Civic Leadership
Republic of Congo

Landing in Brazzaville, we had a lot of expectations. We had heard a lot about our alumnus, Vulcain Yengo, who runs Entraide, an NGO on the outskirts of Brazzaville town. Entraide means mutual aid. The organization specializes in youth entrepreneurship training and was established in 2012 with a mission to develop the entrepreneurial potential of Africans for personal development and sustainable autonomy. Services offered include training, business incubation, international conferencing on entrepreneurship and coaching. Whereas participants must pay a fee of \$40, they gain access to a lot of resources to facilitate them turn ideas into actual sustainable projects. Some of those with amazing activities are trained and matched with investors to pursue their ideas.

The organization delivers their impact through six main facets namely; training, support fund for the graduates in form of microcredits (200-250 dollars) at zero interest rate, 365-day incubation of amazing ideas, an alumni network, 'Nduenga' (wisdom) International Conference and the E-SMA android app for managing enterprises.

With a well-established management structure, Entraide can monitor and evaluate its activities and impact simultaneously. By the time of our visit over 1000 youths had been trained. Through the multiplier effect, over 5000 people have been impacted. Over 400 people have attended the 'Nduenga' Conference during which awards for the 'Nduenga' Start up Competition were given as follows: 21st Dec 2013: 2 Projects (Yoghurt & Project Agriculture); 19th Dec 2015: 6 Projects awarded; 10th Dec 2016: 4 Projects awarded.



The LLC Entraide solar charging mobile workshop

Vulcain attributes the success of these projects to his personal experience at YALI RLC EA, his own sacrifice and dedication where he must translate learning material to French and largely to the successful network of partners he acquired in the US while pursuing his studies at Brigham Young University, a private university in Provo, Utah. Some of the college mates are among the founders of the organization. Apart from supporting him in fundraising, they mobilize donations and visit at least once a year to see the impact of their donations.



He joined YALI RLC EA, for the inaugural cohort in July 2015 when the organisation had just started. He had just finished his studies (2010 – 2014) in the US. When asked on how YALI RLC EA contributed to his success, "I attribute my people management skills to the training. I am able to delegate duties and also gained other skills that have seen my organization expand hence hiring more personnel. I currently have 5 employees."



Vulcain showing the new Boardroom with enhanced teleconferencing technology

Yengo also participated in a USAIDF Competition while at YALI RLC EA that won him 10,000 dollars that helped him start his own business that has also employed people and continues to support his family. Finally, Yengo recalls meeting two Congolese youth while at YALI RLC EA that he initially partnered with the initiative before separating ways to establish their own initiatives. He reckons that it seemed more impactful for them to go forth and establish their own ventures and supports them when need be. He has also helped one of his trainees Divin, Mountissa Louzolo (Cohort 24), Entrepreneurship Track who now runs one of the LLC Solar Charging Kiosks (a product of Entraide).

On the future of Entraide, Yengo hopes to spread the message of YALI RLC EA and increase number of applicants from the country. He also showed the team the expansion plans, more rooms in the facility and hopes to acquire the building that currently is on a 30 years lease. He also wishes to patent the LLC Solar Charging Kiosk which is one of their innovations tackling the power shortage in Brazzaville.

Bilingual Journalist Forum



Ntela Biantouari Dzouolo Gess, Cohort 21 & Ewandi Ruth Naomi, Cohort 31
(Ladies in the middle)

All over the world in countries where English is not a first language, majority of people make an effort to learn it. Two widely held beliefs are that English is one of the most important global languages and that knowledge of English leads to expanded career opportunities, salary increments, and improvements in living standards. Countries around the world recognize that to remain competitive in the global economy, their citizens must learn English. For many English learners, speaking is the most difficult part of the language to master. To improve your speaking skills, you need to be able to practice with other English learners or English speakers. One way to do this is by joining or starting an English club. These are informal gatherings of individuals who meet regularly with the express purpose of practicing English. Members commit to speaking in English during meetings as they engage in activities that support and encourage them to use the language.

It was thus exciting for us to visit the Bilingual Journalist Forum in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. The English club is based in the Information Department under the United Nations Information Centre at the United Nations Complex. The club is mainly a destination for current and aspiring journalists, interpreters, translators as well as those passionate about learning the English Language. The patron of the club, Mr Prosper Mihindou Ngoma who is Head of Office at the United Nations Informations Centre, clearly cannot hide his passion and belief in these young Africans hungry for opportunities.

Apart from just practicing English, the club is also involved in the activities of the complex in some of the community projects such as an upcoming event, UN at 75 years that will mainly be about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Two of YALI RLC EA Alumni based in Congo, Ewandi Ruth Naomi (Cohort 31) and Ntela Biantouari Dzouolo Gess (Cohort 21) are among the members of this club who are looked upon to drive the discussions and initiatives. The UN Complex Information Centre provides the space, internet and some of the materials to use during the club activities. Some of the other resources include video conferencing which is available whenever they need it.





The club carries out their activities through reading newspapers, discussing various topics, watching short films, reading materials and debating. Some of the topics covered before include: Youth Behaviour in Today's World, African immigration to the West, Diversity in Local Languages and The UN and UN system (Society of Nations). On this day, the discussion was on trending news in the international and local media.

It was clear across the table that the club was struggling with gender balance with only three females out of almost fifteen members. The YALI RLC EA team therefore challenged the club about this issue as well as exploring more opportunities in technology such as Duolingo software/app, YouTube and going for more languages such as Swahili. The Bilingual Journalist Forum patron appreciated the visit and committed more towards empowering the youths and availing as much opportunities as possible to them.



Environmental Awareness and CleanUp at a Local School

Seated under a tree, away from the scorching sun, several alumni gathered at a local hotel, in a wooden structure that was popular with locals around the area. The alumni, adorned in YALI RLC EA t-shirts, were chatting animatedly. Three of us from the Center joined them to witness, first hand, activities alumni carry out on the ground. The sun was towering above our heads. Sweat trickled down some of us and you would often catch one of us wiping it off. It was going to be an exciting day as we were about to witness the words printed on the back of the t-shirts “Empowering Transformation” come to life. We learnt a few French and Lingala words as we waited for a few more alumni to join us. It was time for us to fulfil our agenda of the day, visiting Soprogi primary school which is a public school in the outskirts of Brazzaville and two minutes walking distance from where we were.

The school mainly targets low income earners in Moukondo area. It has a population of 1,452 Students. When we walked into the school, we were greeted by mounds of trash and water ponds, from rain that had poured the previous night.

There were plastic bags and bottles littered everywhere.



If the ground was a man, then it was balding, as the grass was quickly fading away and, in most parts, completely gone.

The alumni had identified this school as one that was in dire need of environmental management lessons. Led by the YALI RLC EA Alumni Chapter of Republic of Congo officials, they had contributed money amongst themselves and purchased broom sticks and plastic bins that would be placed in each class in the school.



“We realised we needed to come here and share with them why they need to keep their environment clean starting with their immediate surroundings; school and home.” said Patrick Louzolo, the Chapter Chairman. As we went further in, we were hit by the stench of urine. Hygiene was needed even in their toilets. Smack in the middle of the school was water ponds with litter floating. In the classrooms, the walls had more dirt than paint. The situation in this school direly needed an intervention and the alumni involvement was a welcome step towards this.

With permission from the school's administration, we agreed to go class by class and spread the gospel of keeping the environment clean. The first class we entered was of students around the ages of 6 or 7 years. The floor was littered with papers which was evidence that hygiene was not prioritized in this school. Ruth Ewandi, one of the alumni involved in the initiative spoke to them about the importance of ensuring their environment was clean. After speaking to them, she told them to compete on who would fill the bins fastest as she led them to sing the song below in French and they responded:

French

Translated to English

I, ô, a, é	- I, o, a, e
Ramasser les papiers	Let's collect the trash
1, 2, 3, 4	- 1, 2, 3, 4
Ramasser	Let's collect the trash
Un (one)	- We must collect!
Il faut ramasser!	Let's collect the trash
Ramasser les papiers	In the classroom
Il faut ramasser	Let's collect the trash.
Ramassons les papiers.	- in the yard
Dans la classe!	Let's collect the trash.
Ramasser les papiers	Please collect
Dans la cours!	
Ramasser.	



It was shocking to see three plastic bins filled in a matter of minutes from just one class. We came to see the same situation unfold in all classes except for one where the class teacher took it upon herself to buy a broom and ensure the class was clean throughout. After three classes, the alumni split up to ensure all classrooms were covered quickly so as not to disrupt the ongoing sessions

Teacher who presided over the clean classroom said, "I always urge them to keep this class clean. We spend so many hours here and It is important that they practice this even at home. I agree we have a lot of room for improvement"

Patrick Louzolo, the chairman of the Alumni Chapter of the Republic of Congo was instrumental in leading this exercise. He urged the students to take this seriously and to train their brothers and sisters at home.

After the school session we later went to Radio Magnificate, a local community radio station run by the Catholic Church. The alumni were running an awareness campaign on importance of taking care of the environment and talking about their experience as YALI RLC EA alumni. Derly Chester Mboko joined Patrick and Ruth for the interview that was conducted.

The following day was supposed to be the main clean-up of the school with more alumni joining in but a heavy downpour from early morning, made those plans to be cancelled. The clean-up was done the following weekend where they swept the school grounds, cleaned the toilets and uprooted the weeds. They also ensured all the waste was properly disposed off.

In the spirit of YALI RLC EA, the alumni are paying it forward to their communities and using their resources to make their communities a better place.



Access to Opportunities at the Palm Of Your Hand

In the Republic of Congo, the rate of poverty is at 43%. 15,000 graduates join the job market every year and an interesting fact is the total population in the country is only 4 million people. In the changing times, a lot of people are embracing the use of technology in looking and applying for job opportunities. Mobile technology has spread rapidly around the globe. Today, it is estimated that more than 5 billion people have mobile devices, and over half of these connections are smartphones. Whether in advanced or emerging economies, younger people, a large majority under the age of 35, own a smartphone and are more likely to be digitally connected. 1.5 million youth in the Republic of Congo have access to internet and use social media on a regular basis. Over 80% are using their smart phones.

Entrepreneurs are using this development to reach out to the youth. Others are using it to empower young people at no cost. One of these people is Derlyck Mouyengo, an alumnus of our program based in Brazzaville, Congo. He owns Sala Association which is a mobile app company that the youth in his country use to look for job opportunities. Companies are also using this app to advertise their vacancies, forums and workshops that the youth can benefit from. Sala Association is an NGO and they do not charge a cent for both job seekers and employers.



Derlyck Francky Mouyengo
Cohort 18, Civic Leadership
Republic of Congo

youth in my country have a much better experience in their job search but I was not cognizant of how to go about it”. He continues, “In 2017 I was accepted into the YALI RLC EA program and that’s when the light bulb moment happened. Design Thinking course helped me come up with a solution-based approach to solving the job search problem for the youth who are job hunting. I was able to adopt a hands-on approach in prototyping and testing the app which I finally launched in May 2019”.



“When I was job seeking I had a really tough experience. In 2014, I made a decision to help the

Derlyck has a team of six volunteers, not on pay. This is not his full-time job as he works for MTN Congo as an Assistant Manager, Treasury. “I use my salary to fund this project. We had to get office space in the city, branding, equip with required resources and it can be strenuous but I want to do it and help where I can”. Derlyck who is a towering 6 feet tall has a composed demeanour and is an orator. He is one of the few youth in Congo who can speak English fluently. “I realized I needed to learn English in order to be able to access different opportunities across the World. This was a factor in my being selected for the YALI RLC EA Program. One of the directories in the Sala app is about English Clubs. We have to keep

up with the current trends and learning English is imperative.”

Sala has garnered over 15,000 registered users in less than a year and 4,000 daily users which is a great achievement. The condition for posting of workshops, seminars and conferences is...entrance must be free. The app also helps the young people who are about to join university learn more about the courses they offer. “All universities that are recognized in Republic of Congo are in the Universities directory in the Sala App. It guides the young people to do better planning especially in knowing the entry requirements thus saving time and money”. The success of Sala App is monitored mainly through testimonials from both parties and also increase in the number of users. Derlyck is also involved in giving motivational talks to university students and youth forums sometimes organized by the YALI RLC EA Alumni. He also trains the youth on financial management.



About his YALI RLC EA experience, “Joining YALI RLC EA was a life changing experience, it changed my way of thinking, it was a real paradigm shift for me. I am so grateful to my fellow alumni, all the facilitators, the Center and all the sponsors. The training, the experience and the network that I got helped me to be more effective and productive at work (MTN) and it equipped me with the necessary skills to create and run a social enterprise. Before YALI RLC EA I was impacting tens of people and now I am impacting thousands of people every single day. I never miss any opportunity to encourage people to apply for the program.”

Leveraging on Collaborations for Entrepreneurship

Gimnez Tarsy Patrick Matsouela
Cohort 19, Business & Entrepreneurship
Republic of Congo



It is February, but the Christmas decorations are still up at the Management Institute of Brazzaville resplendent in yellow. There was a bunch of young people in their early 20s either waiting for their classes or seated in groups discussing coursework. Accompanied by Chester Mboko, an official in the Alumni Chapter of Republic of Congo, we drove to Ouenze area at the outskirts of Brazzaville to meet our alumnus Patrick Tarsy.

The heat was giving us a beat down, but we were relentless in our quest to visit Tarsy. His is a story of empowering youth in entrepreneurship.

“We train young people to bring their ideas to life. We provide seed funding to them and the funds come from local organizations who are willing to finance these projects”.

He has been collaborating with the Institute where his office is based for the past three years. His organization, LEB (Leadership and Business & Entrepreneurship) Congo targets the youth and its purpose is to equip young managers and entrepreneurs with practical skills in Leadership and Business & Entrepreneurship. The organization is also licensed by Franklin Covey to offer training on the 7 Habits of Highly Effective people, which is one out of five in the country. It won a state prize of the best start-up during the annual start-up competition to promote the creation of new Congolese and African companies.

“We train young people to bring their ideas to life. We provide seed funding to them and the funds come from local organizations who are willing to finance these projects”. The impact of these interventions

is quite visible with most of the trainees now financially independent through employment or businesses started after attending their training. In Republic of Congo, the rate of poverty is at 43% and the job market is getting saturated as over 15,000 graduates are churned out annually.

“Our focus is also shifting to the rural areas and so far we have empowered 1,500 youth. We have something called ‘Entrepreneurial Weekends’ where we visit far flung areas to train the youth.”



He joined LEB Congo after attending the YALI RLC EA program. The organization was actually founded by alumni Kamou Kaya (cohort 15) and Ndongui Jean Precylhya (cohort 16). He credits a lot of his success to the Center training. “The training is hands-on, not theoretical. It is very experiential and practical thus easy to come back into the society and fold up the sleeves when getting your hands dirty”.

On Partnership, LEB Congo has partnered with other peer organizations such as Entraide (Vulcain Yengo – Cohort 1) and working together with the chapter officials in their activities. At the time of our visit, he had just received an invitation to go to Rwanda for an event organized by YALI RLC EA alumni. He is also working with the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education since 2018. He pointed out, “You go alone to YALI RLC EA but leave with a family”.

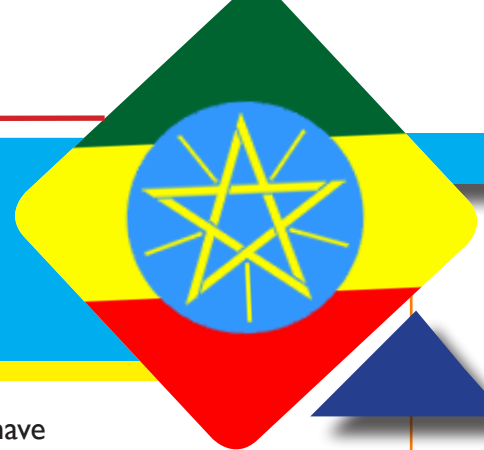




Like any other business, challenges will always be there. For Tarsy he has to deal with difficulty in accessing rural areas. "There are instances where I have to travel 1,000km by road which takes about 2 days". There is also the issue of competition from other players and thus he uses this as a way to keep innovating while adapting to the changing dynamics. "There are times I have to offer free training as a way of paying it forward and also as a way of growing the LEB Congo brand". The ever jovial and passionate Tarsy added, "Recently we offered free training to over 60 young people in leadership skills and also business and entrepreneurship. Normally, this would cost them but an affordable fee."

What does the future look like? "We are determined to break the cycle of unemployment among young people through practical leadership and entrepreneurship training and funding youth projects. We want to leave a legacy behind that we made a difference in someone's life."

Alumni Chapter of Ethiopia



Since the new Alumni Chapter leadership took over on May 1, 2019, they have been conducting several initiatives and activities that help the community and alumni engagements. So far they have carried out over 50 sessions some of which are highlighted below:

“እኛለኛ” or “Egna Legna”

A national initiative called “እኛለኛ” or “Egna Legna” in collaboration with the Ministry of Education Ethiopia and other youth. It is an initiative which aims to teach and support Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) students during the winter, who missed their classes due to different issues over the year.

#MyYALlExperience (Program)

They started #MyYALlExperience as a monthly series program where alumni share their experiences and stories before, during and after the YALI RLC EA program and inspire other young people in their community. The program aims to develop a peer to peer learning and experience sharing platform.

YALI Welcoming

YALI welcoming is a program for the new alumni who commence from YALI RLC EA. The program is a platform to create a YALI family spirit for the new alumni, be an introduction event with the Alumni chapter of Ethiopia and activities so that they can join the activities with fresh energy and knowledge they got from the Center. Also, it becomes a platform to give them assignments of coming up with new ways of giving back to the community projects or to link them up with the existing projects.

YALI Knowledge Exchange (Program)

YALI Knowledge Exchange is a program where alumni share their expertise on an issue they would like to share with fellow young people in their community. The program aims to develop a peer to peer learning and knowledge sharing.

YALI Events

They also conducted several events where they gathered many participants on different sessions to share ideas, thoughts and solutions. To mention some of them: -

•Yoga for Health

• **Beyond the Noise Mental Health**– Our alumni Ephrem Bekele and Harun Mwaduna from Kenya (Cohort 30) conducted a session on mental health to give awareness for our community.

• **Global Entrepreneurship Week**– They invited the Mandela Washington Fellowship (MWF) alumni Surafel Mathewos and discussed how a young Ethiopian Entrepreneur like him has conquered all the challenges and got to where he is now.

• **16 days of Activism** - They conducted two events, one is “I Stand Against Rape” by alumna Hilawit Worku and the second event was held by the Alumni Engagement Chair Rahel Getachew on Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands Against Rape as a closing event for the 16 days of activism.

A Safe Space and Voice for the Youth



“I got the will power to do it and to make it happen after the Seven Habits unit. I have managed to impact about 25,000 people.”

**Ephrem Bekele Woldeyesus
Cohort 26, Civic Leadership
Ethiopia**

A mini YALI RLC EA right in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. That is the nostalgic feeling you get once you enter Erq Ma'ed Creative Space coordinated by our alumnus, Ephrem Bekele. At the entrance you are welcomed by a children's play pen whereby parents, especially women who have no one to leave the children with but have to work at the space or are coming as customers. “After attending the YALI RLC EA program in 2018, I knew we had to change this space. It needed more colour, creativity and to look youthful. We also took advantage of the fact we are on the top most floor hence a lot of natural light,” He explains donning his signature smile which is the first thing you notice once he hands over his business card bearing his photo. Located on the top most 8th floor of the NB Building, the view from the top is one to behold. An almost 360 degrees view of Addis Ababa, the political capital city of Africa.

Together with the co-founders; Tigist Waltenigus and Endalk Assefa, the trio decided to create a creative space in the year 2019 where young people could rent and co-work for three months for free, as they build themselves. They also offer training sessions in design thinking, mental and psychosocial health and social entrepreneurship in collaboration with the Alumni Chapter of Ethiopia. Erq Ma'ed is a social enterprise company which works on mental health issues through media and Radio Talk Shows.

“I got the will power to do it and to make it happen after the Seven Habits unit. I have managed to impact about 25,000 people.”

Ephrem has become a household name in Ethiopia. They have a popular radio show (Ye Erq Ma'ed) which airs three times a week and has a listenership of over 10 million people! Companies are always advertising during their show that has continued to give the company a financial boost to also fund other projects in youth empowerment and mental health. “I love radio. My radio show mainly focuses on reality stories happening in our daily lives. We tackle mental health, conflict in marriage, domestic violence, drug abuse and many other pertinent topics affecting the youth and women today.”

Ephrem has more than eight years of experience in non-profit and social enterprise sectors. He is also the founding Executive Director of SunEko Art for social development where children acquire the therapeutic benefits of art through social circus and amateur sports.

He adds, “I am also a volunteer peace publicity Ambassador for International Women's Peace Group (IWPG) for the last three years. My main responsibilities are to conduct peace-building events, organize and deliver peace lectures at schools, create media visibility for women's' peace activities both locally and internationally and assist the Director with leadership roles. I also teach peace education in different schools and communities.

His efforts have been recognized both locally and internationally. Ephrem has won many awards through his work. They include: Reach for change social enterprise



company's accelerator program winner, WHO health innovation challenge award in Cape Verde as top 30 winners from 77 countries and 2,400 projects, Growth Africa Entrepreneurs accelerator program winner from Kenya, Best Radio Show Award 2012 from Fana Fm and many more.

Ephrem uses social media for social change through his different Facebook pages that has a cumulative number of more than eighty thousand followers. He was the regional content manager for U.S. based media Technology Company called Zeno Radio.

He led training projects for Save the Children International. He worked with Handicap International,

Population Services International, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and Total S.A. on the areas of documentary, human capital training, and consultancy. He was appointed as an international peace ambassador in South Korea.

Ephrem says of his YALI RLC EA experience and why people should apply, “Every youth has a dream and the road to this dream is not always clear and YALI RLC EA is one of the best programs which brings this clarity. This is not just a fellowship or training program, but rather a journey which shows you how to impact yourself, your community and the world at large”.

In closing he thoughtfully said, “YALI RLC EA impacted me once and kept on impacting me by bringing a huge



impactful circle of young people. It was not easy to leave my office for a whole month and I had doubt. However, the first two days of the program proved me wrong! I conquered my fear of heights when we went to Brackenhurst in Limuru for teambuilding. The program gave me a deeper insight into myself and my cause. This helped me understand better on how to collaborate with the rest of the world. We became international while impacting locally.”

When time came to leave, no one wanted to. It felt as though we were where we belonged. We wanted to pause time and stay long indulging in the scenic view from the 8th floor, a mini-YALI RLC EA indeed.



Injera is My Livelihood



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Gemechis Ejeta
Cohort 10, Business & Entrepreneurship
Ethiopia

If you go to Ethiopia and do not eat Injera, you have really let the Ethiopians down. A staple food in Ethiopia and Eritrea and found in many countries across the world, Injera is made with “teff”, a tiny, round grain that flourishes in the highlands of Ethiopia. While teff is very nutritious, it contains practically no gluten. It was thus a great experience for us to visit our alumnus Gemechis Ejeta, who is involved in production of this organic food.



Getting there was quite a task under the scorching sun. Located in the outskirts of Addis Ababa in Bole Bulbula, we missed a few turns until Gemechis came in his intimidating 4 by 4 pickup, a perfect ride for the weather road that we were going to use to access his factory.

When we got into the factory, we were greeted by the sour smell of Injera and happy staff who work for him. We had to adhere to the proper hygiene code by covering our hair and cleaning our hands before access to where the injera was being produced.

Gemechis is full of life. His passion for his work is undeniable and you could feel it from how excited he was taking us through the entire process. “We did a research and 91.5% of Ethiopians say injera is an addiction that they cannot do without”, he went on to explain, “In fact in the Lord’s Prayer, we Ethiopians normally say “Give us our daily Injera”. People will also say “Let God bless you with good Injera when they are wishing you well or blessing you.”



Rahel Moges, CEO of Ethiogreen Production and Industry PL started the company in the year 2012. She later invited Gemechis to be a shareholder of the company in 2016. Currently Ethiogreen has 65 permanent employees and 21 part time, 90% being women. Gemechis loves to empower his community and sources the raw products strictly from local farmers. The equipment in his factory have been innovated and manufactured by local artisans such as the gelatin maker and fermenting machine, “YALI RLC EA program made me a better entrepreneur. Carrying out a thorough market research gave me a much needed paradigm shift. It also made me realize that your network determines your network.”

“In YALI RLC EA we learnt about paying it forward. I will empower my community in any way I can. For my employees, I sometimes pay school fees for their children with funds that I get from teaching tourists how to bake Injera as they gain new skills. It is a project I have collaborated with Travel Ethiopia PLC and so far, it has been a success”. He also offers financial literacy training for women especially in the rural areas. He buys teff from women farmers in Adaa, one of the woredas in the Oromia Region of Ethiopia. As for his employees, he has taught them how to save in order to secure their future and he has collaborated with Enat Bank to ensure his employees have a bank account.

Gemechis gets very animated when talking about his work. You would want to relocate to Ethiopia and set up an injera factory too. With over 110 million people in Ethiopia and only 60,000 kg of injera produced, the market is certainly not saturated. His passion is infectious and has also borne results from a business perspective, “At Ethiogreen, we make about 10,000 injeras in a day. We export to our largest market, USA which is 80% of our export customer base. My revenue is \$1 Million per annum. We also ensure that low income earners in Ethiopia have access to our products by offering affordable pricing and stocked in the local shops.”

Some of the big names across the World who have had the privilege of eating Injera from Ethiopia include, Justine Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada and Victoria Beckham, Fashion Designer and a former member of the pop group, Spice Girls.

What does success look like in the next five years? “I am setting up another factory that will be able to produce over 30,000 injeras in a day thus creating more employment and also increasing revenue for the company”.

Whenever you visit Ethiopia, have some Injera produced by Ethiogreen.



Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada enjoying some injera from Ethiogreen

Mela at Work for the Girl Child

Melatwork Tibebu Mengesha
Cohort 33, Public Management
Ethiopia



Her cry filled the room when she was born announcing her arrival to the World. Piercing and yet a golden moment. Her mother named her Melatwork Tibebu. Worq means gold in Amharic but she prefers to spell it as Work because of her love for work hence Melatwork.

Melatwork has a presence. Not intimidating, but one where you want to know who she is. She has a welcoming demeanour about her which comes in handy in her day to day activities. When we arrived at the Col. John C. Robinson American Center located at the National Archives and Library Agency (NALA), we had a worthy surprise. It was Black History Month and in commemoration artistes had done some amazing artwork in honour of Col. Robinson. He was an African American military pilot who assisted Ethiopia in World War II and helped with the founding of its national airline.

After appreciating the talent that is in Ethiopia, we sat down with Melatwork to hear more about her project #WhatNext and about herself. She holds a BSc degree in Medical Laboratory Science and MSc in Clinical Laboratory Science, Hematology and Immunohematology track. She is also a 3rd year PhD student at Aklilu Lemma Institute of Pathobiology, Addis Ababa University. She has been working at Addis Ababa University since 2012 as a Lecturer at the Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Hematology and Immunohematology track. She has worked as the chairperson for the Department Research Ethics and Review Committee as well as the Coordinator of the Extension Program. Besides her regular teaching job, she acts as a Research Advisor for undergraduate students and co-advisor for postgraduate students enrolled in regular and extension program.



"I heard about YALI RLC EA on Facebook. My desire to attend the program was ignited after my friend Gelila Biresaw became alumni of the program. My experience at YALI RLC EA was very unique. As a health professional in academia, I am always focused on my clients or my students and often forget about myself. YALI RLC EA gave me skills to be more effective in my personal and professional life. The experience totally invigorated me in ways I never thought possible."

She continued to explain, "The curriculum, the delivery, the interaction with other formidable young women and men from 14 other East African countries, the exercises and the facilitators, were all powerful and unforgettable. Starting from the personality tests. I learned how to take advantage of my strengths, acknowledge my weaknesses and work on the ones I could change and accept the ones I couldn't.

Diversity in the program taught me to be kind, open and understanding. The five public management modules helped me focus on my personal mission in providing quality higher level education and health care for everyone. It gave me great insight about global leadership and stakeholder engagement.”

After YALI RLC EA, she came up with #WhatNext. It is a women empowerment and mentorship program with the objective to give young women the knowledge, skills and attitude which will enable them to succeed



in their professional and personal life. It enables them to be a pillar in their community by developing their leadership skills. The sessions are carried out over a five-month period, twice a month in the two American Spaces (the other is based at the American Embassy). The curriculum is like that of YALI RLC EA's with added trainings in soft skills, scholarship application tips, relationship talk, reproductive health, mental health, personal branding and experience sharing from successful women.

The program also has a book club which improves their reading habits as well as their self-development skills. There is a private Telegram group with over 380 members where links to scholarships, job opportunities and important upcoming events are regularly shared. “In general, my mentorship program is created to uplift and empower young women to take their rightful seat at the big table. I also work with YALI RLC EA alumni to offer mentorship”.

Melatwork started the program with five girls but more girls started to show up and 36 girls earned their certificates in the first cycle. The second cycle launched in February this year has 65 girls signed up which proves that young women are eager to learn how to be effective and maximize their potential.

“It is a privilege to be a YALI RLC EA alumna. It is a huge responsibility that I don't take lightly. I want more women to follow my lead in inhabiting confidence, pursue higher level education, be able to sustain and repeat their success both in their personal and professional life. My dream is to work for the World Health Organization; training professionals, developing guidelines, creating, improving and influencing policy which will improve both the health care and education sector. I will also work to expand #WhatNext all over Ethiopia and eventually Africa.

Alumni Chapter of Uganda



Since May 2019, the YALI RLC Uganda Alumni chapter has successfully managed to enhance alumni development and growth through effective communication about ongoing chapter activities and available opportunities using its robust team. The alumni members are important and without their engagement and participation, the existence of the chapter is meaningless. The chapter continues to hold physical meetings with alumni and ensures to meet alumni as soon as they return from the RLC. However, there is need to align these to vision 2023 to achieve strategic progress. Starting from 2020 the chapter intends to streamline alumni participation under three strategic thematic areas i.e; public health, good governance and sustainable livelihoods and wisely manage a few beyond these boundaries.

Partnership and resource mobilisation are core to the chapter's sustainability and for the successful achievement of Vision 2023. The chapter looks beyond what it has and hopes to grow with those ready and willing to grow with it. The chapter has successfully worked with 19 partner organizations and 125 individual alumni partners since July 2019, of the 19 organisations 6 are new external partner organizations, 8 are alumni owned organizations and 5 are prospective partners in the pipe line to close working agreements. Chapter partnerships are in three forms i.e. Individual alumni, alumni initiatives and external partners in the community, (public and private sectors). Alumni partner with the chapter through giving monthly contributions, supporting chapter events, cake cutting events and supporting fellow alumni initiatives.

For partnerships to remain relevant and sustainable the chapter is focusing on getting external partners with common interest and engaging them into long-term relationship to achieve vision 2023. For example, Plan International, Open space, Uganda Youth Network among our other partners include: Afripads, Kampala City Council, Aero print, Coca-Cola, CREEC, FAHAMU, Giving Children Hope, Khareetoo Foundation, Youth Aid Africa, Ugabus, Naabagabe Foundation, Farm Kiosk. The aim is to get more partners interested in our vision on board for long-term commitment.

Starting 2020, the chapter intends to align its events to Vision 2023 and the strategic plan, by defining strategic objectives for every event that are, measurable and time bound so as to have a solid evaluation basis, strategic networking, strategic resource allocation and amplified YALI alumni impact. Among the events to run in 2020 include: Deep Dives, the Pulse, YALIconnect, Annual general meeting, Annual awards dinner, Good company, Cake cutting, regional tours and learning labs.

The chapter is working at decentralising chapter events and activities in order to increase YALI alumni visibility and impact country wide. It will create regional heads and committees that will fire up their regions in terms of activities and events so that our brand will be strengthened across the country. With a clear vision, active and motivated alumni membership, strong partners, timely support from RLC, strategic leadership from the various Chapter leaders, they are headed for success, alumni empowerment and visible community impact.

Easing the Procurement Process in Uganda

Catherine Nakimera
Cohort 22 , Business & Entrepreneurship
Uganda



Alumna Catherine Nakimera is calm and collected. Her demeanor exudes a woman who knows her purpose and is passionate about her business. Her business is located in the same building as Uganda Bankers Association in Muyenga, Kampala, Uganda. She runs Strategic Sourcing Consult Ltd (SSCL), a premier provider of professional procurement, facilities management and logistics advisory services. SSCL was incorporated in Uganda in March 2016 with the aim of providing professional services to organizations in the public and private sector. These are offered as outsourced services enabling our clients concentrate on their core business activities as we take care of the day to day administrative and support areas of their business operations.

As we sat down in a room, classroom style where bankers come for training, she explained, “The idea of starting SSCL was born out of a desire to



help organizations that participate in tenders and contract/project management to improve their compliance and adherence to set requirements. Many bidding companies are disqualified in the tendering processes due to unbelievable administrative errors and omissions, which can be averted, and their competitiveness is improved.”

Catherine adds exuberantly, “The journey has been exciting, with every customer experience, we have built on the confidence, and character of the service offering and are now proud to be trusted with bigger and more complex projects, involving stakeholders in the public and private sector, which we have delivered to the delight of our customers.” With Catherine leading, SSCL has had impact on several key projects which include management of the procurement processes of the following; Procurement and Project Management for Set up of Agent Banking Data Centre and Uganda Bankers’ Association Offices, Tender for the BOU/NIRA E-gateway for National ID verification for UBA member Banks, Valuation management system for UBA member Banks, Outsourced Cash processing Services for UBA member Banks, among others.

Their clients currently include Uganda Bankers Association, Agent Banking Company Limited, Asset Reconstruction Company, FAWE Uganda, Uganda RE-Insurance Company, Airtel, among others. She has created employment for five permanent staff and partners with many other professionals from time to time.





“In February 2018, I had the opportunity to attend Cohort 22 of YALI RLC EA. The experience gained from the various trainings has been helpful in focusing and reshaping our strategy and direction as an organization. The key areas shared with the SSCL team were design centered thinking and the business canvas modeling being embedded in our practices. Our training services and Meet the Buyer events are tailored around design driven entrepreneurship model.”

In closing, Catherine added, “As we strive to move from good to great, we are looking at automating the processes in procurement and tendering process to help our clients realize savings and improve efficiencies in their procurements.”

Empowering the Community, by Upskilling the Women In Uganda

Monica Tayebwa
Cohort 33, Business & Entrepreneurship
Uganda



The drive to Nyanama area in the outskirts of Kampala was a long one and we had to stop and ask around for directions. We finally arrived in Nyanama through a rough narrow road to meet Monica Tayebwa, an alumna of YALI RLC EA. Alongside her shop was a businessman making “rolex” and for a moment we almost got derailed but we remembered why we were there. In Uganda, the rolex is the country’s favourite snack, a sandwich made up of an omelette and chapati bread, and it derives its name from a play on the words “rolled eggs”.



Monica welcomed us to her shop which also doubles up as a mini-factory. She founded Fabulous Innovations Limited in 2014 to encourage and promote hygiene in her community. She manufactures detergents, liquid soap and disinfectants that she sells at affordable prices in her community. She is also in the fight against malaria by implanting anti-mosquito fluids in making organic mosquito repellants in form of candles, bathing soaps and jelly. The candles are in different shapes and sizes. To make them even more appealing, she creates beautiful ceramic candle holders in delightful designs.

“I find hotels love the ceramic holders. They even use them as décor artefacts. Individuals also buy them for

“ I encourage the youth to join the YALI RLC EA program to sharpen their minds and get a chance to socialize with other young entrepreneurs and learn more disciplinary measures to manage their income.”

their aesthetic appeal”, Monica explained as she took us through the process of making the candles.

A professional public administrator and entrepreneur, she went on to register her idea as a company in June 2019. Through her company, Monica trains, mentors and advocates for entrepreneurship. “I train women on making these products so they can have a sustainable way to fend for their families. I have so far trained over 200 women”

Monica comes from a family of entrepreneurs. Her father’s factory is located right across her shop. The father is into recycling and manufacturing of plastics. Monica says, “My father is proud of what I do to help the community access the products I make at an affordable price. I also contribute to the revenue that he makes as I buy all my plastic containers from him” She adds as she laughs, “I buy from him. No parent relations in business”

Monica holds a bachelor’s degree in Public Administration and Management from Uganda Christian University, Uganda. She also holds a Certificate in Administrative Law from Law Development Center, Uganda. She felt she needed more skills and upon hearing about YALI RLC EA, she knew she had to apply.

“I was elated to be selected to join cohort 33. The experience I gained in the program has been impactful in my business.”

The design thinking class was an eye opener for me and gave me a different perspective of how I should run my business". She walks to a shelf and picks two products and lets out a loud sigh, "This was my initial packaging. Immediately I came back from YALI RLC EA, I changed to this." She hands us the new packaging to look at. She pointed out that just by that transformation, she has managed to increase sales and even have her products accepted into more retail stores.

In collaboration with Mastercard Foundation, Monica is also mentoring young people who have just completed



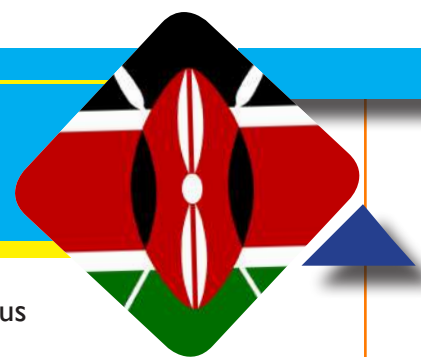
school and own startups and social enterprises. "We are carrying out an entrepreneurship training, where the students come up with different business ideas, and I am privileged to be among selected mentors to help them grow and succeed as I jumpstart their ideas or accelerate their business growth. They are about 15 groups comprised of four to five members competing for a fund of 22 million Uganda shillings."

Monica faces challenges in her business, like limited access to funding, struggling to be taken seriously as a young female entrepreneur in a male-dominated industry which has proven to be a struggle in earning respect.

The future is bright for Fabulous Innovations and Monica has great dreams for the company. "Besides building up the customer base, production facilities and distribution network, I plan to increase our sensitization work by building up a network of facilitators and more hub centers in different regions which will help people in different areas learn their business. We also aim to achieve our goal of reducing unemployment in Uganda and beyond."

Her closing remarks, "I encourage the youth to join the YALI RLC EA program to sharpen their minds and get a chance to socialize with other young entrepreneurs and learn more disciplinary measures to manage their income."

Alumni Chapter of Kenya



Between May 2019 and April 2020, the Kenya country chapter has achieved various milestones across different sectors.

Environmental Conservation

In May 2019, the Nakuru County Chapter led a tree planting session in collaboration with the County Government who provided 400,000 avocado seedlings. This will see farmers benefit from improved livelihoods from the sale of avocados, as well as improved nutrition for the community. In addition, in Nakuru County, the Chapter's alumni Bathsheba Osiemo and Lynda Amoiti mobilized the community in Kuresoi Subcounty, where they served as Assistant County Commissioners in Olenguruone and Keringet Divisions, respectively, to plant 1 million trees in the Mau Forest.

In Narok County, alumni led by George Saruni are at the halfway mark of the #1 Million Trees Initiative, which they are working to achieve in the current year.

Strengthening Governance and Participation in Policy Processes

In July 2019, alumni led a session on governance and election to help youth understand how to vote, their right to vote, as well as making the right decisions while voting which will help choose the right leaders who will contribute positively to development. In April 2020, alumni submitted memoranda to the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 which contained recommendations on various issues including addressing GBV, enhancing the wellbeing of vulnerable groups (e.g. people living with disabilities and the elderly) during the lockdown among others.

Building Transformative Leadership

Throughout the year, alumni hosted several forums aimed at building leadership skills in their communities. Throughout the year, these forums have taken various forms including merging art with leadership conversations (e.g. Art4Leadership). Other trainings for effective leaders included a design thinking workshop conducted in partnership with the career office at Murang'a University where alumni trained more than 60 students on design thinking basics.

Business and Entrepreneurship

Throughout the year, alumni engaged in different activities seeking to strengthen business and entrepreneurship in their communities. Some of these initiatives include: building agribusiness skills among poultry farmers; equipping youth with fundamental basics on entrepreneurship and skills on managing their enterprises; helping start ups with skills on identifying and recognizing the different business models and how to establish them as well as creating value for customers. Other initiatives include running a forum on the 30 seconds pitch which helped young entrepreneurs gain skills on how they can express themselves and sell their ideas to potential investors.

YALI Information Sessions

The country chapter hosted information sessions on youth opportunities and how to apply for the YALI RLC EA Program. Information sessions were held both in person, via social media and mass media. Sessions were conducted in more than 29 counties.

Alumni Social Activities

In order to continue building a cohesive network of alumni and knowing each other and about individual initiatives, the country chapter hosted monthly social activities. The first one was held in June 2019 in Karura Forest, Nairobi County and a subsequent one held in Ngong Hills, a collaboration between the Nairobi and Kajiado county chapters.

Cultivating A Reading Culture for Her Community



Milkah Ngunjiri Righa
Cohort 5, Public Management
Kenya



**Bookshelf where the books
will be placed**

“When we read, we learn new things. When we read together, we learn things not just about the book, but also about the people with whom we are reading with. When we all get on the same page, we make better collaborators and problem solvers because we understand our world a little bit better. We become a community of engaged, educated, and empathetic individuals. This creates an opportunity to make better families, better communities, and a better world.” These were the words of Milkah Ngunjiri Righa, the former Taita Taveta’s County Executive Member (CECM) for Trade, Tourism, Gender, and Culture & Cooperatives. Her story serves as an empowerment for women especially from the rural areas that opportunities are available for all. Milkah with a ‘h’ comes from Voi, the largest town in Taita-Taveta County in southern Kenya. As the CECM, she championed for the rights of women and youth in the county.

“I foresee a time when this library will be fully-stocked with computers, books from a wide range of topics, audio books, many people coming here, book clubs led by the youth in Landi community and sprouting of other book clubs in Taita-Taveta County. Learning never stops and I want my community to always have readily available resources to access. An empowered community is a plus for development.”

In empowering her community in Landi area, Milkah realized there was a need to equip them with knowledge and make it easily accessible to all. She decided to set-up Landi Community Library in a local church. The community library will help to improve the reading culture and literacy levels of both young and old people. Collaborating with the Anglican Church of Kenya that provided a space for the library, they carried out a successful book drive in 2019. Currently, the library has a potential to grow into a big resource center that will benefit the community of Landi.



“This will really help the young people to develop a reading culture, as the books are now readily available.” Explained Milkah as she showed us the hundreds of books stocked up in the library store ready for display as a huge bookshelf was being set up for easy access.

She fondly remembers her time at the Center back in 2016 and cited Design Thinking Class as her biggest takeaway from the fellowship. By the time we were interviewing her, Milkah was working to facilitate a training to the county executives on the use of Human Centered Design Thinking with a bias on strategy implementation and designing of strategy papers to improve service delivery to the constituents of Voi. The overarching goal for this was to encourage the administration to improve their decision-making skills and come up with more appealing and practical ways to find solutions to the communities in Voi. Milkah says of her YALI RLC EA experience, “I use the skills and knowledge I gained from the Center in my work and personal life. I am grateful for the network of young leaders across 14 countries that I can easily reach out to when in need of anything and also learning from one another. YALI RLC EA gave me an opportunity to be better and do better in my community.”



What is the future for the library? “I foresee a time when this library will be fully-stocked with computers, books from a wide range of topics, audio books, many people coming here, book clubs led by the youth in Landi community and sprouting of other book clubs in Taita-Taveta County. Learning never stops and I want my community to always have readily available resources to access. An empowered community is a plus for development”, Milkah affirms and with her go-getter attitude, it will only be a matter of time.

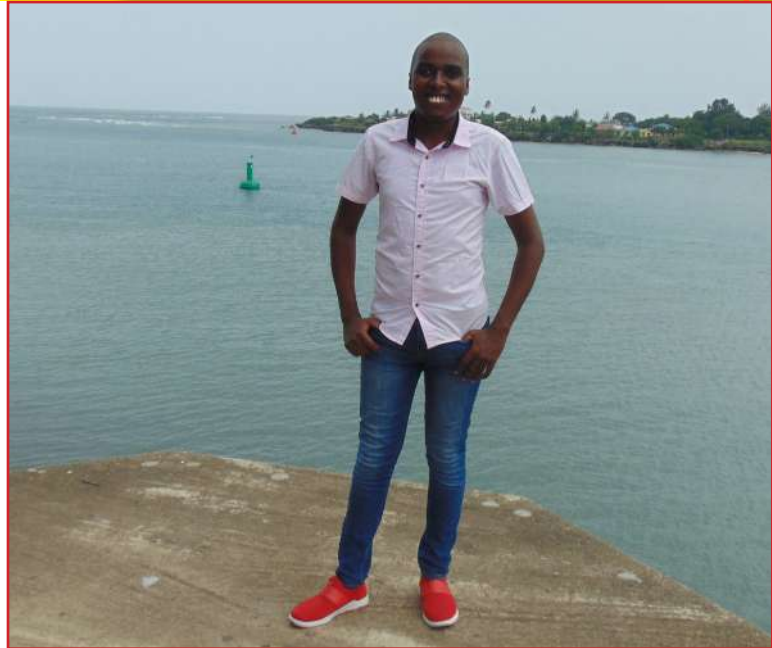
The Blue Oceans; Opportunities for Impact

**Brian Gicheru,
Cohort 24, Civic Leadership
Kenya**

The ocean was forging its own sea-song. She embraces the whole world with magnificent beauty and by her breathe humanity and other living-organisms survive A ship was docking after its enthralling journey in the high seas. Hundreds of people were embarking and disembarking from the ferry, leaving or heading to the south coast. This was the norm for Brian Gicheru, a young man who was born and raised on the South-Western side of Mount Kenya in a constituency called Mathira, Nyeri County, Kenya, a region that has earned itself a name in the international coffee trading circles. So, what was a 'coffee boy' doing miles away from his home region in a completely different environment?

"I undertook my undergraduate studies in Environmental Science at one of the Kenya's Coast-based research Institutions, Pwani University. I majored in Marine Ecology in a bid to satisfy my curiosity about oceans and how they function. However, it was improbable to get all the answers I needed about the Blue oceans and the enterprises they support within the four-year period of undergraduate studies. Fortunately, it was enough to equip me with the know-how to progressively ask the right questions about the blue economy and attempt to answer them as a marine ecosystem researcher and professional," explained Brian, small framed but gushing with knowledge.

It is upon this foundation that his work as a Programmes Officer in one of Mombasa's oldest Environmental NGOs; Eco-Ethics, exist. Eco-Ethics was founded back in 2001 by Dr. Bernard Okeyo, a Marine and Fisheries scientist based at Pwani University's School of Environment and Earth Sciences. They focus their efforts in guiding coastal communities to sustainably



exploit the Blue Economy's potential leveraging on the vastness of marine ecosystem services. They closely work with artisanal fishers as well as their communities in Kenya's Coastal region in protecting their livelihoods from a myriad of vulnerabilities they face as pollution and climate change takes a toll on oceans.

Brian adds, "It is important to note that although I was prepared to handle any technical work emanating from my organization's work in Blue Economy, I quickly realized that I needed to build my capacity in leadership skills for my work to have greater impact. Most of our projects are designed and implemented in partnership with target communities which in turn demand for good interpersonal and communication skills. Hardly are these qualities gained through normal schooling and at times one can find themselves at a tight position when leading a team to pitch a project proposal to a prospective donor."

Sometime in 2017 during a discussion with his friend about capitalism and world leaders, it inspired him to submit his application to YALI RLC EA. "It was the only program I knew where budding leaders got mentorship as well as question the philosophy behind leadership. I remember This is Africa class and the subject on Systems Thinking cropped up again.

"Being a member of YALI RLC EA alumni network means that I can easily access and synergize efforts with thousands of like-minded young leaders. This has proved as a great advantage when seeking new partners for my organization not just in Kenya but also within East Africa."

For example, the prevalent poverty in Africa can be tackled by disaggregating the myriad factors it encapsulates and understanding their individual characteristics.”

Instructively, Human-centered design thinking is another YALI RLC EA take-home skill that has proved invaluable to this date in his work at Eco-Ethics. “It came in handy in a recent project I was leading to come up with creative solutions to curb marine plastic pollution in partnership with a fishing community in Kenya’s South Coast region.”



Brian emphasizes that the Center experience gave him a paradigm shift on how he understood leadership and its hallmarks. There is always this notion that the world lacks good leaders and he believes the Center is an investment to remedy this.

“Being a member of YALI RLC EA alumni network means that I can easily access and synergize efforts with thousands of like-minded young leaders. This has proved as a great advantage when seeking new partners for my organization not just in Kenya but also within East Africa.”

**YALI REGIONAL
LEADERSHIP CENTER**
EAST AFRICA • NAIROBI

STOP THE SPREAD OF CORONA VIRUS

- KEEP SOCIAL DISTANCE
- WASH HANDS REGULARLY
- AVOID CROWDED PLACES
- STAY AT HOME
- WEAR A FACE MASK





<https://yalieastafrica.org>





Alumni Engagement Country Visit Photos



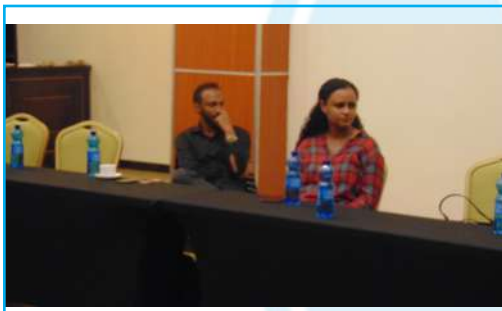


Alumni Engagement Country Visit Photos





Alumni Engagement Country Visit Photos

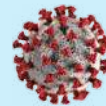




Alumni Engagement Country Visit Photos



ALUMNI IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19



John Mathenge
Kenya
Cohort 26



is a clinical officer. As a medic and a crusader for adoption of healthy lifestyles, he has taken a step further in creating awareness about COVID-19, and especially prevention measures. He was invited by the national broadcaster, KBC TV, Mt. Kenya TV and other TV stations to create awareness about Corona virus that is currently a crisis in the World.

Harun Mwadena
Kenya
Cohort 30



is actively involved in the fight against Covid-19 in Kilifi County. is working towards educating his community in Kilifi County on the importance of hand-washing to fight Covid-19. Together with his peers, they are making liquid soap and distributing it for free. Producing local face-masks in line with @MOH_Kenya guidelines and providing them free of charge to their fellow youth.



Eric Gisairo
Kenya
Cohort 17



is currently in South Sudan and runs an organization, Hold the Child. In applying design thinking, he designed a simple handwashing facility for use where he resides. Made out of a jerrycan and a string, readily available materials, this has ensured those living in the same compound are regularly washing their hands including children.

On the other hand, he was also interviewed by a national radio station in South Sudan over Corona Virus. He is regularly sharing COVID-19 related information especially to do with prevention and guidelines shared by WHO on social media.

Nathaniel Magembe
Kenya
Cohort 34,



is the CEO of Sapma Enterprises which manufactures soap detergents. Due to Covid-19, he is carrying out awareness training at Outering near Naivas supermarket Boda Boda stage. He has installed an improvised sink and offers free handwash and sanitizers in order for the youth especially boda boda riders maintain hygiene. He has also held community awareness sessions at Kibra with support of SHOFKO, Ushirika and Sapma Enterprises. He trains people on proper handwashing and other measures to enable prevent spread of Covid- 19. He has been featured by NTV sharing his views on hygiene and other measures to keep Coronavirus at bay.



Twinamatsiko Raymond
Uganda
Cohort 24



is the Executive Director of Mbarara Rise Foundation. He is facilitating delivery of ARVs and food supplements to the rural LGBTQ community. Due to the Covid-19 crisis, the Government suspended all public means making it difficult for the community to be able to access health centres.

Nohe Fekade
Ethiopia
Cohort 35



runs Yhow Solutions. Because of COVID-19, schools and institutions are closed. He is offering his learning software for free as a service technology for higher education institutions in order to help continue the education digitally.



Stephanie Kusa
Kenya
Cohort 31



resides in Kakamega County. She is currently doing door to door civic education and research on access to water, level of security and GBV. This is courtesy of the OHCHR Office Kenya and the Social Justice Centres Working Group.

Sylvanus Obiero
Kenya
Cohort 22



works for the Nairobi County Public Health Department. He is engaged in providing risk communication and community engagement in protecting the public's health against Covid-19. He is one of those involved in conducting fumigation to combat spread of Covid-19.



Ronard Tushabe
Uganda
Cohort 34



recently launched an innovation to help people who are at home and unable to move to markets to order for foodstuff using their phones and computers and they deliver direct from the farms to door steps. Their story appeared in the most popular tabloid in Uganda. It can be accessed here (<https://campusbee.ug/innovation/innovation-must-students-create-farming-app-deliver-foodstuffs-door-to-door-in-mbarara/>).

Isabirye Beka Ntende,
Uganda
Cohort 13



runs Sunbeats Ventures Limited, a company that supplies and delivers foods, fruits and vegetables to both individuals and institutions. During this epidemic, they are not only ensuring access to fresh and affordable health foods to communities but also playing a big role in preventing the spread and contraction of corona virus among Ugandans especially in the districts of Kampala and Jinja. Even with the lock-down on movements across Uganda, individuals have the opportunity to shop from the comfort of their homes by calling and placing their orders with them. Through this, they avoid the risks involved in being in crowded places such as public markets which are high risk areas for contracting or further spreading the Corona-virus.



Victor Odhiambo
Kenya
Cohort 32



is the Co-Founder of a Non-Profit organization called Garden of Hope Foundation. Their work is mainly based in Kibera slum. They have set up hand washing stations in various parts of Kibera to reduce the spread of #Covid19 in informal settlements. Our project has since supported 5,000 people.

Rahel Semu
Ethiopia
Cohort 20



together with her friend Amen Haile they have developed a website that helps create awareness about Corona virus and provide up to date information in their 2 local languages (Amharic and Tigre) and also in English language .
<https://covid19info-et.com/>



is using his social media influence to devise simple sanitization messages for the local population about Covid-19. He is using his medium, Chol Duang Television show online to inform and reach a wide audience.



runs Rossana Health Convoy, which is providing education to the community on how to handle Covid-19. They are educating their community about the COVID-19 health crisis and how to be socially responsible in order to prevent infection and avoid spreading the illness www.rossanahealthconvoy.com



is actively participating in the fight against COVID-19 by working with the government agency at the front line by spraying disinfectant for passengers to wash their hands before boarding public transport.



is currently reporting on COVID-19 at International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)-Health Crisis Reporting Forum. The forum has converged over 1000 journalists from all over the world. They give real-time reports on COVID-19 from their respective countries like cases reported, recovery, fatalities, innovations and solutions around COVID-19 and expose on gaps and other updates as they come up. He is also working on cross-border story-collaboration with four other journalists from other countries and continents namely :USA/The Caribbeans, Brazil, India and Nigeria. Their focus are the homeless people who are underserved, some unaware of COVID-19 and greatly exposed. Additionally, he is using social-media to update and engage audiences on solution based measures advised by the Ministry of Health, John Hopkins University, World Health Organisation, Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and verified information (reports) from ethical media outlets from around the world.



runs Climate Change Health Agriculture and Development Initiative (CCHADI). He is working with local administration to sensitise the community about corona virus in the local language (Luganda). They are also teaching people on how to make hands-free washing points called Tippy taps to help the community wash their hands without touching the jerry can by use of pedals. Tippy taps are made from locally available materials. They also teach them how to properly wash hands.



runs Somali Youth Civic Organization (SYCO) and they are creating awareness of the Corona virus disease prevention and control. They are doing active messaging on their social media messages and on the ground.

<https://www.nation.co.ke/oped/cuttingedge/THE-WATCHMAN/440802-5510184-qysvt5/index.html>

<https://www.nation.co.ke/oped/cuttingedge/THE-CUTTING-EDGE/440802-5501392-6cf0jfz/index.html>

<https://theinklusivepress.law.blog/2020/03/27/homeless-families-in-the-streets-of-nairobi-left-in-the-mercies-of-covid-19/>



Kakel Mbumb
DRC
Cohort 6



is the Grand Katanga regional coordinator of the Young Professionals Association for Agricultural Research and Development (YPARD-RDC) and he has organized an awareness campaign in the rural area of Kilwa where mostly youths are less informed about Covid-19. He is training them on measures to protect themselves. He has reached out to over 55 rural youths.

Divin Bonté Kuru
DRC
Cohort 15



produced a short video where he uses sign language to share #COVID19 health guidance with the global deaf community. He covers best practices for prevention, identifying symptoms, & what to do if you are sick. The video has been shared numerous times and gotten recognition from USAID, US Embassy and media in DRC.



Waithira Maruru
Kenya
Cohort 23



has rallied her friends and they are donating food items to the less privileged families in Nyeri County. They want to ensure that no one dies of starvation as they adhere to the #stayHome order.

Douglas Ogutu
Kenya
Cohort 28



Alumni Douglas Ogutu (cohort 28), JOseck Kweya (cohort 25) and Oliver Jemuge (cohort) have produced a song and incorporated YALI Network members based in Nakuru. The song is translated into 15 local languages reminding Kenyans on measures to undertake to curb the spread of the corona virus.



Noreen Asekenye
Uganda
Cohort 35



is helping her community through her organization Tell a Story Foundation which has partnered with Gracious Hands Uganda to start a campaign called "Kaccupa". Kaccupa is originated from one of the most spoken languages in Uganda called "Luganda" and means a bottle. They are providing free sanitisers to the vulnerable families in her community called Kiwanga since most cannot afford to even buy soap. They have so far donated to over 20 homes.

Mercy Mutuku
Kenya
Cohort 35



is currently volunteering with Youth for Sustainable Development (YSD) National Platform and as a team, they are working on documents pertaining to information dissemination to People With Disabilities (PWD) and the common mwananchi (Citizen) in their different local dialects. On the same, they are able to deliver information that creates more awareness on COVID 19, how it spreads and how to keep self and those around us safe thus also helping to bust myths.



Marwa Elhaj
Sudan
Cohort 32



participated in a medical convoy to create awareness on #Covid19 to the community. It was organised by Nature Development, Al Ain Electronic Ltd and MEDA X Company in the Green Valley area in East Nile locality block 15 targeting more than 450 families.

Beingana Geoffrey
Rwanda
Cohort 7



works for Mpharma and he is using media to reach a wide audience. He is interviewed by Royal FM, every morning, to share the latest updates, advice and counselling to the public.



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