



YALI REGIONAL
LEADERSHIP CENTER
EAST AFRICA • NAIROBI

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THE LEADING EDGE

An Update for Partners and Stakeholders





YALI REGIONAL
LEADERSHIP CENTER
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A NEW DAWN FOR YALI RLCs



April 17, 2019, was a momentous day for the four leadership Centers in Africa, as we announced the launch of YALI Africa at the University of South Africa (UNISA) in Pretoria. For the YALI Regional Leadership Centers, the launch represents a new beginning for the RLCs in which we harness our collective power to develop into long-standing, sustainable institutions.

In the four years since its launch, YALI's Africa-based RLCs have provided transformational experiences to young innovators, problem-solvers, and self-starters helping them accelerate their growth as leaders. The Centers' 13,000 alumni take pride in being part of a movement of passionate individuals who are joining forces to create positive change in their communities, countries, and the continent.

The creation of YALI Africa is central to scaling our efforts to equip and motivate young people to take on leadership opportunities in Africa. YALI Africa will enable the Centers to breakdown regional boundaries and leverage their vast youth network for sustainability. As a legal entity, it will connect the four independent RLCs and serve as a secretariat – a central point for setting and maintaining the YALI RLCs' mandate and unified vision, setting standards, and mobilizing resources.

At scale, YALI Africa has the potential to create high impact and long-lasting change in communities across sub-Saharan Africa.



**YALI REGIONAL
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- ☐ **Are you making impact in your community?**
- ☐ **Are you a citizen of any of the 14 countries in East and Central Africa?** (Check our website for country names)
- ☐ **Are you a young leader between 18-35 years?**

From June 17th to July 1st, 2019, applications will be open for Cohorts 35, 36 and 37.

Apply and be part of the best leadership program in Africa!



Follow our social media pages for daily updates and application tips:

 @YALIRLCEA  @yalieastafrica  @YALI Regional Leadership Center East Africa

<https://www.yalieastafrica.org>



Deloitte.



NOT EVEN WAR COULD STOP HIM

Dr.Cedric Patrick Le Grand Ouanehpone

Central African Republic (CAR), Cohort I

Prior to joining YALI RLC EA, I was a young medical student and social change-maker. I was on the board of three local associations that I founded with my friends and colleagues to stand up for human rights, gender issues and access to quality education and affordable healthcare. When the war started in 2012 in CAR, I was committed with my team to treat patients in IDP camps, churches and mosques and to train young people helping them to refrain from violence. In that light, we produced a movie “The Dove” in Fatima’s church (one of the religious places in Bangui attacked by armed people) to raise awareness on peace and reconciliation. I helped more than 100 pregnant women to deliver babies in many IDP camps more often with derisory items. In January 2019, my work was rewarded by the World Prize for Humanism of the Youth in Macedonia.



When I joined YALI RLC EA family in 2015 as a part of the inaugural cohort, war and conflict were still going on in my home country. Due to this, booking a flight from Bangui to Nairobi, was an arduous task and I almost missed attending the program. YALI RLC EA experience was for me a great source of inspiration; it changed my paradigm, honed my leadership skills and sharpened my determination to contribute to change in my community. Meeting amazing young African change-makers, learning from their experiences, challenging oneself and trying to analyze issues in many angles are the benefits of YALI RLC EA.

Back home, my commitment to transform my community grew tenfold. I developed a mentorship program with some friends and we have mentored more than 800 young people. In this program, we equip them with self-development and social entrepreneurship skills, business plan writing and embracing leadership values. In addition, we target local youth associations through capacity building. In “Action Secours Espoir” (ASE, one of our local associations that targets children protection) we set up an Art Therapy program for kids living in IDP camps to help them forget the stigma and the trauma of war. 1,432 children were reached where more than 500 were orphans.



With other alumni from the Center and thanks to the YALI RLC EA Transformation Fund, we were able to target vulnerable young people in the 6th district of Bangui. 60 young people received training on social entrepreneurship and self-development before a practical step during which they raised chicks in poultry farming as an economic activity. Secondly, we set up a program called “This is CAR” based on the YALI RLC EA concept of “This is Africa”. In one week, 100 young leaders responsible for youth associations throughout Bangui were gathered to focus on the CAR they envision. The last one was “CAR for Her” also based on the YALI RLC EA concept of “Africa for Her”. This program designed for girls and women was performed in the rural area. More than 100 girls and women focused on girls’ education, the place of women in business, politics and on gender-based violence issues.

In 2017 we created the CAR YALI Alumni Association in which I held the position of the Development and Project Committee Chairperson. We performed an important program for all young people from CAR called “YALI Outreach”. In small groups, alumni traveled to all 16 districts of CAR to meet young people and performed community service, mentorship, English training, networking and to raise awareness on sexual and reproductive health.

This program was implemented thanks to Alumni Engagement Innovation Funds from the US State Department and the support of local partners impacted directly over 20,000 young people. At the end of the program, a national youth camp (the first of its kind in the country since the war began) was organized in Bangui with all mentees coming from all the 16 districts of the country. An English club was set up in all districts and a wide network was created among young people living in the different sides of the country: a great factor of social cohesion in a country in need of peace and reconciliation.

I really believe that sustainable change comes from the grassroots where more energy is needed to transform and develop a community. Leadership is not only a question of a big mind but a question of being human first. There is not a better way to understand others and inspire them to awaken their giant if we are not human ourselves. Doing so, even a smile can transform and save a life. That is why I totally agree with former President Nelson Mandela who said: “Leadership is behavioral, not positional...”. A true legacy is the one which stays alive inside people.



www.yalieastafrica.org

BE OUR MENTOR

Do you want to be a guiding light to our alumni from **14 countries** in **East and Central Africa** in their quest to transform their communities?

#YALITransformation

Sign up Here
➔ <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LPS23GH>

 **YALI REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CENTER**
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ALUMNI EMPOWERING PARTICIPANTS AS FACILITATORS

YALI RLC EA is more than a location for learning but represents a philosophy, a forward-leaning culture of diversity that invites dreaming and thinking differently to define and realize one's potential. The educational philosophy incorporates three main focus areas: personal information, leadership transformation, and sector transformation. Our participants are engaged in leadership training across three tracks of study: Business & Entrepreneurship, Civic Leadership and Public Management in a 4-week residential format with a focus on individual and team leadership skills, innovation, creative learning, and communication.

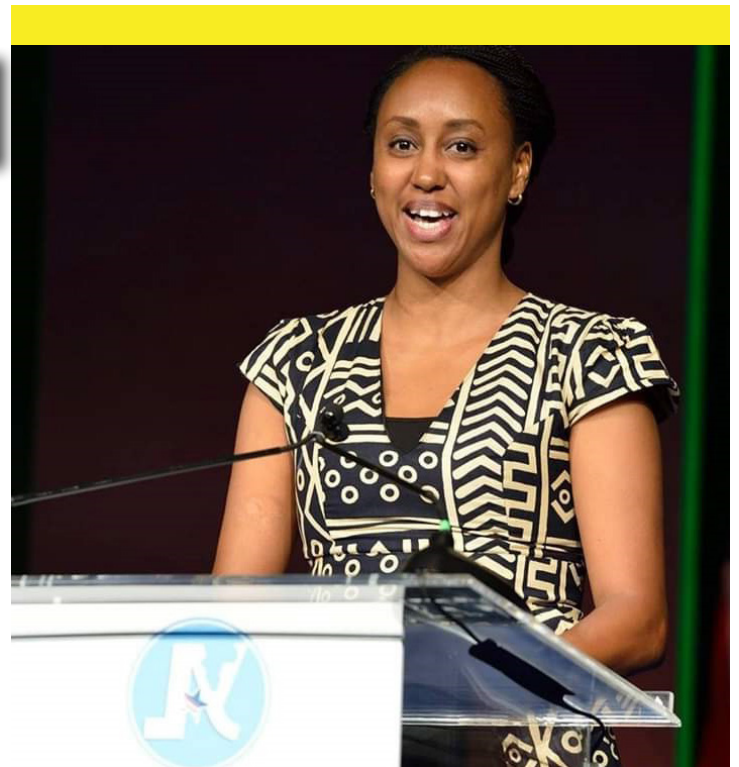
The success of the YALI RLC EA training program can be attributed to the caliber of facilitators that the Center engages. The facilitators are people who are passionate about making a positive impact in the lives of young leaders in East and Central Africa. They have been empowered and are more than willing to empower others. Some of these facilitators are proud YALI RLC EA alumni who have come back to the Center to contribute to youth empowerment.

Below is their story:

Julie Munyi Ogwapit

Cohort 2

"It is said that a journey of 1000 miles begins with 1 step. My current journey began at the YALI RLCEA and I am eternally grateful for how far it has brought me."



2015 was a tumultuous year for me. I was employed and doing fine but at the same time, I was a little bored and restless and dreaming of doing something more meaningful and impactful with my life. I began working on a business plan for a soft and life skills training program for kids and started exploring options to elevate my skill set. It was during this time that I came across an advertisement for the YALI RLC EA program.

The description appealed to me particularly the transformational leadership element and the opportunity to develop and refine my business ideas. I quickly submitted my application and was delighted to be accepted for cohort 2.

The classroom sessions were engaging and eye-opening as were the discussions and debates in the hostel afterward. I was blessed to share a room with a charming and very smart Ugandan lady named Rose, who could make me laugh until I cried as we chatted in our room after dinner. I met the most amazing people and made life long friends. What stood out most for me is that there are very few programs that offer such a deep level of self-reflection and enable a person to identify and articulate their passion, purpose, and legacy. Beyond the practical training and networking, the YALI RLC EA experience gave a safe space to clarify who I am and what I am about.

A few months later, there was recruitment for facilitators at the Center and I applied. I was selected! The program was in Nairobi and I was employed and living 400km away in Mombasa. I had to make some tough choices but the program had helped me clarify my purpose such that I knew capacity building in entrepreneurship and leadership was my way forward. I quit my job, registered my consultancy business and began offering youth training programs in addition to training at the Center.

Towards the end of 2016, I felt a little stuck. My consultancy was doing ok but the soft and life skills Center had not taken off and my pilot programs had not done as well as I hoped. I decided to apply for the Mandela Washington Fellowship to benchmark how similar programs are structured in the US and gain a network of advisors and potential funders to help me get my project off the ground. I was selected for the 2017 cohort and I had a wonderful experience at Lehigh University, PA where I was awarded the Servant Leadership Award.

When I returned to Kenya after the US component of the fellowship, I was honored to be elected to represent Kenya on the YALI RLC EA Regional Advisory Board and to later Chair the East African Board. In 2018, Lehigh University invited me back as a project mentor and facilitator in global summer entrepreneurship called the Global Village for Future Captains of Business and Industry. This summer, I will be heading back to the US with Lehigh again but to the San Francisco program for teenagers as the Academic Director.

I wanted change back in 2015. I wanted to do something more meaningful and impactful. I never dreamed that I would change careers; join YALI RLC EA and have the amazing opportunity to interact with, coach and develop the most amazing young leaders in Africa; be setting up meetings and tours with Silicon Valley names I have only read about in business articles; gaining curriculum development and program management experience.

It is said that a journey of 1000 miles begins with 1 step. My current journey began at the YALI RLC EA and I am eternally grateful for how far it has brought me.

Julie facilitating



I was heavily involved in the arts as a dancer and as an actress in a community-based youth group and an international dance movement respectively. I was in my fourth year of undergraduate in Law School at the University of Nairobi. I held a few leadership positions as the organizing secretary, chairlady, choreographer and a lead facilitator. I was also actively engaged in peer education, an avenue through which I practiced most of my leadership skills to become a sought after facilitator because of my sense of understanding, self-drive, proactivity, and innovation. This led to more opportunities to be at the helm of making things happen. Whether it was pitching an idea successfully, mobilizing crowds or even creating structures, I did all these with ease and was pretty much convinced I had figured out my leadership game.



In July 2015, I joined other determined and grounded leaders from across East and Central Africa in the first cohort of the YALI RLC EA. While my expectations for the program were high, I had not foreseen the immense transformation joining the program would have on me. My whole concept of leadership was flipped upside down, my pride was dealt a big blow and everything I thought I knew about leadership all over sudden appeared rudimentary at best. Through the content taught to us, the occasional motivational talks and the overall methodology of the program, I immediately realized that my leadership style lacked alignment, clarity and a stronger sense of conviction. Each activity held, discussion hosted, talk given or even a seemingly simple video shared to us came loaded with a lot of learnings that contributed immensely to a journey of self-reflection, alignment, and clarity.

The program focuses a lot on personal leadership with carefully thought out content and methodology that allows for reflection and experiential learning. A great lesson I carried with me after the program was a new mindset or as we call it at YALI RLC EA, a paradigm shift that has redefined how I carry about my everyday life. While taking the program, I was interning at a reputable law firm as would be expected of any determined law student. The idea was to go through the career path of an advocate and climb through the corporate ladder to wherever it would get me. However, I was not convinced that is what I wanted for myself and this got in the way of living to my truest, fullest self which is helping others discover and live a purposeful life through coaching, mentorship and facilitating their learning. The program gave me an opportunity to ask myself brave questions, lay my vulnerability bare and use the tools at my disposal to craft a personal leadership transformation journey that has redefined my leadership style. The decisions I made then contributed to being where I am now.

I currently work with Amani Institute, a content partner with YALI RLC EA and one of my most interesting roles is facilitating at the Center for the Civic Leadership track. My role involves coaching the participants and guiding them to discover and embrace a growth mindset that will see them do things more effectively, aim for continuous learning, master resilience in the face of the myriad leadership challenges and more importantly align themselves as leaders. The most intriguing elements of my role emanate from the success stories I receive from the participants. One of the fulfilling moments for me as a YALI RLC EA facilitator is guiding participants to work through a design challenge using the design thinking methodology. It is interesting how the participants at the start are skeptical about their capability to apply a new methodology to problem-solving and at the end generate very innovative solutions. Most of my encounters have translated to coachable moments where I am continually guiding the participants through their transformation journey even after they graduate from the program.

To any young leader out there thinking hard about joining the program, it may be flamboyant on paper but once you get in, work has to be done. Here you learn the difference between influencing through hashtags and actually leading for impact.

Heidi Mumia

Cohort 2



My YALI RLC EA story begins at age 33 when I got accepted into the program. I was at a fairly advanced stage in my career having accumulated work experience of about 8 years. Though I was working hard and had a few achievements in my name, I felt I was not fulfilling my purpose. I had a burning desire to impact the community I worked in.

My journey of transformation began with self-discovery. At the Center, a number of sessions have been designed for participants to master themselves, their purpose and ability. Before I joined the program, my interests were all over the place and it was difficult for me to train my focus on a defined leadership path. It is through YALI RLC EA that I got the opportunity to look at myself introspectively and define my own path based on who I am.

The program gave me confidence in my identity as a leader and gave me the skills to fit the bill. As a leader in the public sector, it is imperative that I inspire confidence in all the stakeholders I interact with. Leadership communication, public speaking, pitching and stakeholder management are very important skills which have gone a long way in enhancing my voice as a youth in the industry I work and hence expand my circle of influence.

As Albert Einstein said, “Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results”. The best way to transform our communities is to equip young leaders to approach challenges in a new way. Through the program, I was exposed to new methods of finding solutions through design thinking, learning more about the social transformation criteria and strategic thinking in general.

Having participated in the program for 12 weeks (initially the program ran for 12 weeks and later changed to 4 weeks), there were many memorable moments but what still stands out for me is how everyone we interacted with brought their authentic self hence allowing for very open and safe interaction. I really valued the evening sessions with industry leaders from the Civic, Business and Public Management sectors and they all shared unreservedly their journeys and gave us insights on how to navigate in the same. I am grateful for the opportunities for personal development and networking the program provides to its alumni. I am still in contact with all my cohort mates and I have had invaluable opportunities to share experiences and collaborate with other alumni through our Country Chapter and it is a very fulfilling experience.

Working as a facilitator has been a rewarding learning experience more than it has been a teaching experience, not to put into practice what I learned. As part of my role, I am required to contextualize the curriculum into the East African context and that has made me learn a lot about the governments, leadership structure & culture and power relations in the East African region. I always keep myself updated on the current affairs in the region. My experience as a facilitator has not only enhanced my professional growth but it has also instilled the value of stretching out my hand and lifting up the leaders behind me and hence the path of youth development and mentorship has since become one of my greatest passions.

I encourage every young leader, especially those who feel they are stuck and need to amplify their voices and impact in the spaces they work in, to consider applying for the program and watch their lives and work transform!

TRANSFORMING SOMALIA A DAY AT A TIME

Shakiib Mustafe Ahmed

Somalia, Cohort 29

In the last few years, I had been contemplating what to do with my life. I wanted to become a leader, make an impact and be the voice of the voiceless. I had no idea how to approach this burning desire in me. I knew I needed to make a difference, not just to myself but also to the country that I truly love. After many sleepless nights of pondering over this idea, I decided that I will start my journey by taking on an initiative or a course that would help me in these areas that I desperately wanted to succeed. After intensive research on initiatives available to the African youth, I decided to apply to the YALI RLC EA program.

During the program, I learned so many amazing things that have helped shape my future. I am empowered and driven to achieve more in my life while making an impact on others. I interacted with many open minded and African change makers from 14 countries who are all committed to transforming and create the Africa we want. I then embarked on my leadership transformational journey.

When I was coming to YALI RLC EA, I did not get the support and guidance that I needed from Somali alumni except for one. I decided that no other Somali participant will face the challenges and problems I have faced and I will give them guidance and motivation.

I organized information session and offered tips on how to apply to YALI RLC EA since, at the time, the application window for cohort 33 and 34 was open. The result was that four out of the six that applied were selected for an interview and two made it in the final selection.



Later on, I co-trained 150 University graduates pursuing Next Economy program at Harhub Center and I taught them personal effectiveness course and Leadership communication Course. I received a lot of positive feedback from the attendees who felt the courses were enriching with knowledge and would give them an upper hand in life. I want to see every young person in my country succeed bearing in mind “Think Win-Win” and it’s the reason why I am so adamant to make a difference.

A lot of benefits are coming after YALI RLC EA. I was selected to be a facilitator for Youth Leadership Program organized by the Center for Policy Analysis (CPA) held in Maansoor Hotel, Hargeisa. I was also picked to be the co-director of African Youth Union Commission-Somaliland chapter to help lead the next generation of Somalilanders who are in line to develop and represent their country in Africa.

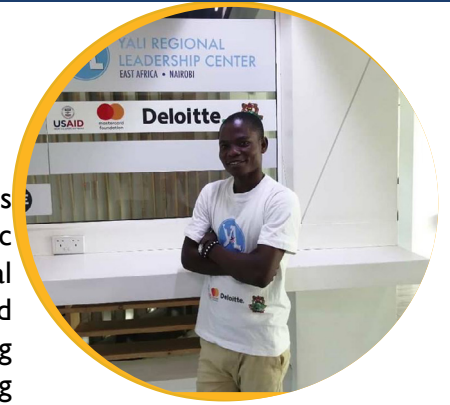
It is mind-blowing and humbling to see that I have impacted someone, inspired them to do more and help them realize the potential they have. I plan to do more to transform our community and create a better tomorrow for our future generations. I challenge all YALI RLC EA alumni to transfer their knowledge and skills by the approach of teach to learn.



THE STORY OF SAFEANGLE

Ambrose Kamya Uganda, Cohort 3 I

In Uganda, this is just one of the thousands of both told and untold stories of women and girls violated annually. According to the Uganda Demographic survey (2017), over 56% of women in Uganda have ever experienced sexual violence. This has led to death and poor reproductive health of women and girls thus preventing them from achieving a better life. However, the existing solutions mainly address sensitization and post-violence reporting thus leaving survivors with limited options to seek urgent help when being violated. I decided to do something about it and I ideated SafeBangle and together with our multi-disciplinary team, developed it.



SafeBangle is a social enterprise that develops wearable bracelets that women and girls that need personal safety from sexual or physical violence can use to easily and quickly seek real-time help. When activated, it sends notifications to registered contacts indicating the physical location of the survivor for quick rescue in addition to collecting evidence for use by survivors when seeking legal justice, as well as sounding a loud alarm. We began SafeBangle in April 2018 and with support from UN WOMEN, Resilient Africa Network and United Social Ventures. We have been able to prototype and test SafeBangle in Gulu district. Currently, we are working on the final prototype for re-testing, launching and piloting. In addition, we have so far sensitized over 5,000 women and men on the importance of ending violence against women and girls. We have done this through Institutions of Higher learning and public places like local markets. We won the 2018 Makerere University College of Computing Annual Innovation challenge, the 2017/18 Ending Violence Against Women and girls Hackathon by UN WOMEN as well as being recognized by the Parliament of Uganda.

Being at YALI RLC EA was my first time to have crossed the Ugandan Border and interacted with a huge pool of young leaders from 14 countries doing so much to change their communities in East and Central Africa. After the orientation, we were hosted at Brackenhurst, a conference and training Center, the coldest place I have ever been to. For two days, this is where the real experience of the program began. We had interesting games like high ropes that taught me to always develop trust in my team and build capacity for the rest of the team because if those down cannot support you, you are most likely to have a thunderous fall. I learned the importance of teamwork as well as aiming to achieve my goal no matter the situation. In just those two days, people that went as strangers went back to the Center as close friends.



Ambrose Demo to The Rt.Hon Speaker of The Parliament of Uganda

At the Center, I found Design Thinking and This is Africa as interesting modules but 7 Habits of Highly Effective People stood out for me. It helped me make a surgical understanding of myself. I am an innovator and team leader, but I need other team members for effective leadership.

Using the skills and knowledge, I have normalized my team and we are now progressing faster because we appreciate our different roles. We now plan ahead and also formulated a communication strategy so as to eliminate misunderstandings. My vision for SafeBangle is that millions of African women will be able to access it through YALI RLC EA alumni. I have also been able to integrate in the Uganda YALI RLC EA Chapter that has opened up more opportunities for SafeBangle as well as being selected for the 2019 Mandela Washington Fellowship under the Leadership in Business track at University of Notre Dame-Indiana State. "YALI RLC EA is the best thing that has ever happened in my life".

LUNCH WITH DELOITTE EAST AFRICA CEO

Julius Kiting'ati, Tanzania ,Cohort 32

I was excited about the day. After all, my fellow participants Luke Odera (Kenya) and Farduz Bashiir (Somaliland) and I were going to have lunch with none other than Joe Eshun, Deloitte East Africa, Chief Executive Officer (CEO). It was a sunny busy afternoon at the heart of Westlands in Nairobi, Kenya. The city was bustling with so much energy and our drive to the venue was filled with banter on how we can improve the state of affairs in the continent and also our exciting experience at the Center. We arrived at Capital Club, a premier membership club where senior individuals and corporate leaders within the regional business community meet to network.

I never envisioned this happening when I walked into YALI RLC EA for the 4-week leadership program. However, the three of us were selected from active participation during Speaker Series: Evening With Joe Eshun, a session where industry leaders are brought in to give talks to the participants in session.

In brief, these are the 10 tips for young leaders by the Deloitte East Africa CEO:

1. Build relationships that grow your value
2. Concentrate on your strengths
3. Don't miss out on available opportunities.
4. Focus, Focus, Focus
5. Go out to the World and be adventurous
6. Have a clear vision, plan and document your desires
7. Humility and selflessness
8. Invest in family
9. Read a lot to quench the thirst of knowledge
10. Stay healthy



As if this experience was not exhilarating enough, he then promised to visit our projects in our respective countries. We were all gobsmacked and could not believe this was happening. Benefits of attending YALI RLC EA were clearly more than we imagined. This experience taught me that taking time off to empower others is important and the three of us had a memorable experience with words of wisdom that we will implement in our lives and also pay it forward. Clearly, Deloitte is led by a purpose; to make an impact that matters. Thank you Mr. Eshun for a delightful experience.

CENTER ALUMNI PARTICIPATE IN YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

Michelle-Rita Kenya, Cohort 26



On 10th April 2019, MasterCard Foundation in collaboration with YALI Regional Leadership Center East Africa (YALI RLC EA) and Ashesi University put up a forum for young professionals from different industry sectors to exchange ideas and experiences. Thirty-five YALI RLC EA alumni graced the event all the way from Cohort 1 to Cohort 31.

There was a panel discussion, “The Future of Work & Growing your experience in your career through mentorship”. The panel was comprised of a multi-generational set of experts from vastly diverse industries. A common trait across the panelists was that they all volunteered at some point in their lives, which enriched their skills. They all also had mentors in different phases of their lives from a young age. Some were mentored by their parents, bosses, community leaders and lecturers who helped change their World view.

Among the key issues that were extensively discussed was the perception that millennials are entitled. The panelists were keen on discussing the matter which has led to the widely held belief that this particular generation does not believe in processes and prefers microwaved solutions. This, however, is not reflective of the entire generation as there are differences from one person to another. The general consensus was that there is always something you can learn from everyone and every experience.

In addition, as young leaders, we need to appreciate that a lot in the World is changing. We need not lament in our current situation, however bad. Challenging situations prepare one for greater things ahead if we avoid throwing ourselves pity parties and do the heavy lifting. It is okay to dream but be humble and take up the small opportunities that come your way. They build up one’s character as a person and makes you multifaceted in the long run.

Breeding good and impactful relationships in life also give you an edge. Most of us love burning bridges but in this new World, strong relationships are what will set you apart. A good example is in the workplace where you probably have wrongfully rubbed shoulders with your colleagues or bosses. An easier route would be to hold grudges and when one moves jobs you could wrap it up and throw it all away. In this generation, you need to be the bigger person, seeking to understand before you are understood. Understanding that these relationships will be useful in the future. The panelists reiterated how maintaining good rapport has helped them maneuver their way around life.

It cannot be overemphasized that the desire for instant gratification is destructive for one’s career progress. That was a message that was especially targeted at us millennials. It takes time to build the skills and reputation needed in any industry. Rome was not built in a day. The intergenerational conversations proved that all the panelists, from those who were in senior positions to entry-level, had to go through life-shaping experiences. In conclusion, the three vital things to remember as we transition towards the fourth industrial revolution: be a critical thinker, have effective communication and be hungry to learn.

MICROSOFT CERTIFICATIONS MAKE MY WORK EASIER

Kelvin Ngatia, YALI RLC EA Staff

When I joined YALI RLC EA early this year, I got to hear about Microsoft Certifications offered at the Center for both staff and participants from the ICT team. My interest was piqued and I knew I had to go for it. My knowledge in Microsoft was confined to typing letters, changing fonts and formats, creating a table and a few other basic functions. I requested for the learning materials and pursue the certification. There was this perception amongst staff and participants that the certifications exams were not easy but I thrive on challenges.



The exams take 50- 60 minutes each so it requires one to be on toes with managing time and answering as many questions as possible. When I sat in the Microsoft room at the Center and registered for the exam I got some chills but I realized it was the window that was wide open. After going through the exam and passing with the traditional flying colors, I challenged myself and did all: Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Word, and Microsoft Excel.

I find that these certifications are very crucial in my day to day work seeing that in my department, we deal with a lot of collection and presentation of information. It has opened me up to features I never knew existed, enabling me to work smart, efficiently and effectively. For example, I am able to check for errors and evaluating formulas in MS Excel and using presenter view to control a live slide show while doing other tasks on MS PowerPoint. From collecting participants' data to making PowerPoint presentations that are unique, I now enjoy being creative and producing aesthetically appealing documents and presentations. In addition, these certifications have built up my resume since I get a badge and certificate that I share with my employer. These skills are not only applicable in the professional sphere but also in the personal one. I created a PowerPoint presentation for my mother for a mission trip with our church to Malawi and they were really impressed by the various features. I was honored and excited by the rave reviews.

I would advise anyone and everyone to get the Microsoft certifications as they give you an edge by providing globally recognized, industry-endorsed skills and willingness to embrace new technology. This opens you up to today's cloud-based jobs, helping you get hired, improving productivity and receiving the recognition that you deserve.



YALI RLC EA EMBARKS ON YEAR 5 AND 6 JOURNEY



The US Government granted YALI RLC EA an extension period by two years. The 2 year period, Years 5 and 6 running from May 2019 through to April 2021, will see the Center take initiative into the journey to self-reliance with support from USAID. As USAID Administrator, Mark Green says, “I believe the purpose of foreign assistance should be ending its need to exist. Each of our programs should look forward to the day when we can end it. And around the world, we should measure our work by how far each investment moves us closer to that day.”

In May 2018, the Center’s registration as a Company limited by guarantee was finalized and is officially registered as YALI RLC East Africa Limited. With the registration in place, the Center has the requisite legal structure to receive much-needed resources for its sustainability.

The extension period provides an opportunity for the YALI RLC EA registered company to begin solidifying its operations towards fully supporting the project course when the extension period is over. In addition, the team embarked on “Mapping, Strengthening Partnerships and Investments on Youth Leadership Programs in the Eastern Africa Region” project funded by The Ford Foundation. The team has so far traveled to six countries and interacted with our alumni in sessions driven to collect information.

Early May 2019, the YALI RLC EA team together with the administrative managers, Deloitte East Africa, had a three-day strategy planning session in Mombasa, where each department was tasked with coming up with viable action points that will lead to sustainability of the Center. It was a rewarding session and the team was delighted by the fact that our efforts as a thought leader in creating and delivering transformative leadership experiences for youth across East and Central Africa will continue. We will empower our participants from 14 countries to be innovative problem-solvers.

For years 5 and 6, the team is still determined to focus on the recruitment strategies that are going to be geared towards increasing applications from persons with disabilities (PWDs), females, countries with low applications and those from rural and peri-urban areas.

Here is to a fruitful two years...salute!

LOOKING FOR A JOB? FIRST IMPRESSIONS MATTER!

By Sandra Owiti-Chege, Program Officer,
Learning & Curriculum



Our over 2,800 alumni are incredible people with diverse qualifications and skill sets. We have purposed to give those who are interested job opportunities in the organization through a competitive recruitment process. Recently, the team and I were looking for six people out of the over 150 applications we received to join the YALI RLC EA Facilitation team. It may seem like a small number considering the thousands of applications some jobs receive, however, going through the close to 200 CVs made me painfully aware of the reasons why some candidates never get past the first stage of the selection process.

As you start the application process, take a moment and put yourself in the recruiter's shoes, and ask yourself, "According to their need, what would impress them at a glance?" The answer to this is what should form the body of your email and or cover letter. This may seem obvious, however, close to half of the applications we received had little to no information on the email body. Think about it this way, this is your chance to catch the recruiter's attention, you cannot leave it at 'Please find attached my CV.' Use the body of your email/cover letter to let them know at a glance, that you are the person for the job. Highlight that you have both the skills and experience that they are looking for. Get the recruiter at hello.

The second thing that struck me as I went through the CVs was, many of the applicants highlighted that they had the skills and expertise we were looking for yet there was no indication of where they acquired or honed the skill. Take for example one may indicate that they have excellent facilitation/training skills, but there is not one indication of a place that they have actually trained or facilitated. If you truly do have the skills needed, highlight it in your work experience.

Still on skill, one of the things that we highlighted as important is the need for the applicant to have strong written and verbal communication skills. We used this as a parameter to sieve the applicants who would move on to the next stage. Your CV is the first point of contact for the recruiter to tell if indeed you have the needed writing skills. Take the time to ensure that your sentences are grammatically sound, check your spelling, word spacing and align your paragraphs. I must add, check the template you are using. If your CV is four pages long on a normal word document but your template makes it eight pages long, you might want to review the template. Packaging is crucial, but content is king. You will get through to the next stage only if you can prove that you have what it takes.

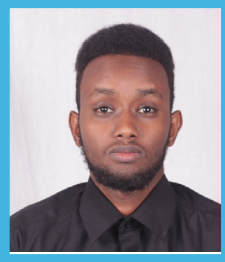
Many times, the recruiter is blind to your skills, abilities and expertise; they simply do not know you. The way they get to know you, is through your CV and accompanying documents. Because you, know you, ensure you highlight the most relevant aspects of your experience to help get you through the door.



YALI RLC EA PHOTO GALLERY



ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS



Dr. Adnan Abdo

Somalia, Cohort 22



He is an optometrist and a visual story. He was listed among the 20 African photographers you must follow under reclaim series by the Sacred footsteps. <https://www.sacredfootsteps.org/2019/02/14/reclaim-the-narrative-african-photographers-to-follow/>. His story was also published by Face2Face Africa about his work of changing the African narrative. <https://face2faceafrica.com/article/changing-the-african-narrative-a-photo-at-a-time-adnan-mohamed-captures-the-beautiful-somaliland>



Sarah Nyawira,

Kenya, Cohort 1



She was invited to participate in the launch of the Global Environment Outlook published by UNEP. She was in a panel talking about the expectations of today's youth for the world in 2050. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fvppNxxhQO4>



Jesse Nicolas Kada,

CAR, Cohort 27



He was selected to be a Youth Ambassador for the World Youth Summit for Peace 2019. He will champion for the rights of girls education and women empowerment in Central African Republic.



Awil Mohamud Noor,

Somalia, Cohort 16



He was among 1,500 youth who participated in a three day African and Arab youth Forum in Aswan, Egypt. The forum is organized to enable African and Arab youth to come together and discuss the challenges and opportunities youth have in their countries. The interview was about the forum, its importance to youth and giving the youth the opportunity they deserve and their potential to contribute to the development of their local communities. The interview is in Arabic. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FuTvL43-WaA>



Sharon Adisa,

Kenya, Cohort 23



She was selected to be part of the African Women Entrepreneurship Cooperative (AWEC) Program running from March 2019 to March 2020.

<https://www.thecge.net/awec/>



Dr. Mariam Mohamed,

Somaliland, Cohort 29



She was a guest medical doctor in a live broadcast at SAAB TV creating awareness about antenatal care and for early detection and recognition of warning signs in pregnancy and management that can be benefiting to mothers who have little chance to go to health centre. The program was broadcasted in Somali language.



Owen Okoko

Republic of Congo,
Cohort 9



He was interviewed by Afric talking about the Economic Crisis in Congo.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avYu0J2iEk4>

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS



Tracy Kobukindo Kamau,
Uganda, Cohort 14



Her team of 3 won a USD 20,000 grant to carry out a project in Northern Uganda on male circumcision. They appeared on enstartup blog here and details of their venture are here on the DPRIZE website www.enstartup.com/2018/08/13/ugandas-entrepreneurs-awarded-usd-20000-d-prize-global-health-challenge/



Winta Eyob,
Eritrea, Cohort 11



She appeared in a blog under Western chances, an organisation supporting talented and emerging leaders in Australia about becoming a One Young World ambassador Scholarship recipient responds to One Young World call to action Western Chances - Chance of a Lifetime.



Maryanne Mumbi Muriuki,
Kenya, Cohort 12



She was featured on SpaceWatchAfrica on her space science, technology and policy engagements with the youth in their January edition. <http://spacewatchafrica.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/spacewatchafrica-January-edition-2018.pdf>



Nahom Teklu,
Ethiopia, Cohort 27



He appeared in EBS TV in Ethiopia having in experimented an interactive social experiment entitled the 'Addis Abeba We Deserve' http://youtube.com/watch?v=aptxqFR_g5A&feature=youtu.be



Reuben Mbuve,
Kenya, Cohort 21



He appeared in two stations:
Switch TV - Topic : How YALI is building a network of young African Leaders.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MjMv3bjM8I&t=4s> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y254>
(KBC Station) discussing Why its time women stepped up into Leadership positions.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQ_sX6Unong



Rose Manumba
Tanzania, Cohort 9



Her work has been featured severally. She is in national politics as a member of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) Youth League National Executive Council" and currently working on a campaign "Binti Itambue Thamani Yako" (Recognize your worth as a girl). Which focuses on a girl in Leadership, education and economy.
<https://youtu.be/2L-p-4OK7wY>;
<https://youtu.be/UP4x5vxsj7w>;
<https://uvccmtz.blogspot.com/2019/02/rose-manumba-amuwakilisha-mkiti-uvccm.html?m=1>
<https://uvccmtz.blogspot.com/2019/02/kampeni-ya-binti-itambuwe-thamani-yako.html?m=1>



Ambrose Kanya,
Uganda, Cohort 31



He was interviewed by New Vision Newspaper on his innovation to reduce kidnapping cases topic being "Stay Security Conscious with a SafeBangle' <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/>

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS



Esther Neema,
Kenya, Cohort 27



She was featured in Mwangaza Magazine, speaking on youth unemployment to the youth at the Coast for the magazine.

<https://www.mwangazamag.co.ke/esther-neema-dear-youth-we-can-achieve-it/>

She was also appointed AYDEC-KENYA youth Representative, tasked with moving SDGs forward across the Continent.



Ayesiga Herbert,
Uganda, Cohort 30



He is one of the brains behind See The Invisible, a campaign launched by Ice Breakers Uganda and Sexual Minorities Uganda. The main focus of this campaign is to stir up conversations and raise awareness about mental health issues especially within gender and sexual minorities in Uganda. Herbert has exhibited incredible leadership and commitment to Uganda's gay community. <https://www.facebook.com/734984563223865/posts/2180118785377095/>



Lorna Karumba,
Kenya, Cohort 28



She was on FamilyTV on the topic, Dating. She was on the show to share her insights as a counselling psychologist. http://familymediaonline.com/video_listing/kuwa-tofauti-15th-april-2019-dating/



Biniam Shiferaw,
Ethiopia, Cohort 15



He was featured in Walta TV discussing matters anti-money laundering. The discussion was in a local language. <https://youtu.be/LEp-qpHUKl4>.



Mariam Nakigudde,
Uganda, Cohort 9



She was in a talk show on Voice of Africa 92.3 FM radio on Konooweka program which is a youth program discussing the topic, Skills Development. <https://www.facebook.com/Konooweka/videos/355948911917073/>



Kerry Byamungu,
DRC, Cohort 12



She appeared in a newsletter of RADIO STAR in south Kivu when he trained women in digital marketing. <https://radiostarbukavu.com/2019/04/sud-kivu-des-femmes-a-lecole-du-marketing-digital-pour-leurs-business/>



Halifet Aye,
Ethiopia, Cohort 31



She was featured in OMN TV station talking about the role and participation of the youth, transitional politics in Ethiopia. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gsfEWmUX_hw

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS



Sylvia Waruguru,
Kenya, Cohort 31



She appeared in Taifa Leo regarding her work as a social scientist in fighting HIV/AIDS.
<http://www.swahilihub.com/habari/MAKALA/Sylvia-Waruguru/1310220-4954646-xywgqt/index.html>



Catherine R. Kimambo,
Tanzania, Cohort 26



Her team participated in the Hult's Prize, one of the biggest business platforms for youth in the world competing to win 1 million dollars to start a business venture that will employ 10,000 youth in the next decade. They were semi-finalists and were interviewed by Switch TV Kenya.



Salma Abdulatif Yusuf,
Kenya, Cohort 15



She was featured tackling different issues in a vlog, podcast and website. Vlog: TOC - Episode 1 Salummy Talks High Divorce Rates In Mombasa. Podcast: Ep.09 | Salma Abdulatif - Giving people the confidence to find their voice and share their story with the world. Website:
<https://mkazi-magazine.com/salmas-quest-for-organic-natural-hair-products/>



Wevyn Muganda,
Kenya, Cohort 26



During International Women's Day, she led the women's march against femicide in Mombasa with a turnout of 600 women. The protest was covered live on Citizen, NTV and K24.



Monges Mongelikov
CAR, Cohort 29



He talked about importance of contribution of volunteers, social workers, NGO L'importance des ONG internationales en RCA - Radio Ndeke Luka
https://www.facebook.com/mongelikov.ruskov/posts/2066955393380988?comment_id=2106092556133938



Ahmed Mohamed Matan,
Somaliland,



He talked about Africa changes and challenges on CBA TV, East Africa Voice.
<https://youtu.be/Kf5jVs7VQjI>

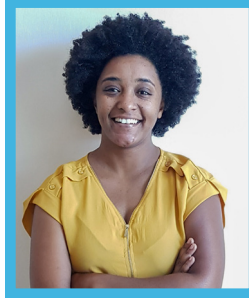
ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS



Hone Mandefro,
Ethiopia, Cohort 3



He was interviewed by Nokoko Journal (Institute of African studies at Carleton University in Canada) about the 2018/19 changes in Ethiopia. <https://ojs.library.carleton.ca/index.php/nokoko/article/view/2040>



Selam Mussie Tadesse,
Ethiopia, Cohort 24



She was selected as one of this year's Top 30 Africa Communication Professionals to Follow by Africa Communications Week.

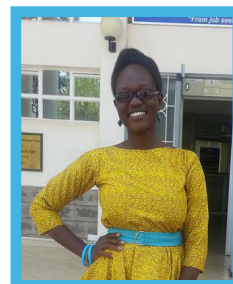
<https://www.africacommunicationsweek.com/top-30-africa-communications-professionals-follow/>



Chol Duang,
South Sudan, Cohort 30



His opinion article was published by PaanLuel Wël website and blog "People who perpetuate poverty, instability and criminality in Africa are leaders who overstay their welcome to power" <https://paanluelwel.com/2019/04/24/people-who-perpetuate-poverty-in-africa-are-leaders-who-overstay-in-power/amp/>



Ayenyo Joanita,
Cohort 13, Uganda



I appeared on a local radio (Radio Pacis 101.4fm, Gulu) on their Saturday 2 hour talk show between 9:00 am to 11:00 am called Lawala Pa Lwak (Lawala means circle, Pa means For and Lwak means People) discussing women's emancipation and the role of women in society. On March 4th, the same radio interviewed me on my perspective on women's day and on March 13, they profiled me among the top 20 women making a change in my community; women achievers.



Minan Yousif Ahmed,
Sudan, Cohort 18



She was featured by BBC Africa speaking about the role of women in the revolution in Sudan <https://twitter.com/bbcafrica/status/1119142470229434368?lang=en>



Jonah Mwangi,
Kenya, Cohort 15



His venture green nettle textile won global change award the first time for an African. <https://biomarketinsights.com/5-minutes-with-jonah-mwangi-from-green-nettle-textile/>



Mubarik Mohamoud Ahmed,
Somaliland, Cohort 29



He was a guest at a graduation ceremony of 118 students from Hargeisa IDP camps. He empowered them in a speech covered by the National Television in Hargeisa. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YZwvpe_qhg



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