



YALI REGIONAL
LEADERSHIP CENTER
EAST AFRICA • NAIROBI

Issue 8

THE LEADING EDGE

An Update for Partners and Stakeholders





YALI REGIONAL
LEADERSHIP CENTER
EAST AFRICA • NAIROBI



Cleaning up Tanzania, one day at a time

By Anna Cheche,

Tanzania (Cohort 22)

Nothing sends a bad signal about where you live or who you are, like a littered environment. When I look around me, I see efforts of reviving the image of my continent Africa. I take time to reflect and I ask myself what role I have to play in all these and my answer is always cleaning the environment around me.

My community faces the challenge of littered environment caused by non-degrading waste as well as lack of durable and affordable building materials. The affected group is the low income earners because most of dumping sites are nearby their residences.

I have acquired a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Public Administration. At 24, I am the Founder and Managing Director of a recycling company called EcoWorth.

I started the company as an answer to my life's calling, to offer a solution in waste management through recycling plastic waste and making new products such as roof tiles, paving blocks and even posts. EcoWorth addresses land and water pollution with the aim of creating and sustaining a health community to today and the future.

Through EcoWorth, our vision is to inspire our society to achieve the highest plastic waste reduction, recycling, and reuse through innovation and creativity that improves economic prosperity, environmental sustainability and infrastructure stability by transform waste to resource.

So far EcoWorth has created about 300 indirect and part time jobs to the waste collectors and eight permanent jobs to the machine operators.

Today, because of EcoWorth efforts, homes in the local communities are relieved, there are reduced incidences of waterborne and waste related diseases such as malaria, cholera, typhoid and diarrhea since most of the dumping sites found nearby their residencies are now cleared. They can now afford to have modern building materials which are eco-friendly, durable and affordable.

EcoWorth is determined to produce posts to be used as an alternative to timber for construction. This will reduce deforestation and save source of water, food and nature of the forest. These posts are eco-friendly, durable and meet market demand.

Before I went through the YALI RLC East Africa program, the impact of achieving a totally clean and green environment was almost but a dream. In the program, I got in touch with the specifics of transforming my vision into a business; how to critically analyze a problem before moving on to providing solutions and also the steps of engaging the society in solution delivery. Today we are witnessing an amplified awareness and sensitivity in reuse and recycling attitude in the society. My society is in touch with my vision, they believe in it and we are working together to bring a change in our environment. I would never have been a better

leader had I not answered the call to go through the program. To date, YALI remains my greatest achievement. Because of YALI, I am able to confidently join the task force of change makers in Africa.

Tule Vyema

Growing a healthier generation



By Maureen Muketha

Kenya
(Cohort 3)

I grew up in a semi-arid area, very infamous for leading cases of malnutrition in Kenya; food was always scarce, disease and poverty were prevalent, women and children were the hardest hit. This experience nurtured an innate desire to fight malnutrition and develop a solution to ensure future generations would have access to healthy food. I started by enrolling for a course in Human Nutrition and Dietetics for my undergraduate degree. By the time I was done with my four year course, I had a deeper conviction of the path I had chosen and a heightened confidence that I would develop a lasting solution to the problems around malnutrition in my home country.

Between April and August 2015, I volunteered at Kenyatta National Hospital in the pediatric department where I taught young cancer patients how to color and I would also narrate Bible stories to them while helping them draw life lessons from the stories. It was such a joy whenever I saw a child's face brighten up despite the pain they were going through. This put my vision into perspective; that I would kill the malnutrition monster with one blow, was never a certainty; but I knew for sure that in even small

ways, I would not only conquer but influence more people to join my course, and together, malnutrition would linger only as dark memories.

At this point in my life, I had all the desire and will to impact on society and a myriad of ideas on how I dreamt of the impact being, but I just did not know how to begin. I needed information and empowerment from someone or a school that knew better. Before I could get so lost in tears of worry and despair, a friend I knew while volunteering at the hospital told me of the opportunity availed by the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). At that moment, I knew my moment of glory had come; this was an opportunity I did not want to lose.



Luckily, I was accepted into the YALI Regional Leadership Center East Africa program after my first application.

With YALI came a renewed Maureen, I could see myself transform into a more magnificent being each day of the program.

Some of my YALI highlights include a session on The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. Habit number 4 (seek to understand, then be understood) particularly stood out for me and since then, I practice listening to people around me with an intent of understanding them and trying to see things from their point of view without necessarily having to reply, convince or manipulate.

Design Thinking class made a significant impact in my leadership journey. It is through this class that I got insights on doing market research to avoid coming up with community solutions that the target group do not appreciate.

With this knowledge, I was able to establish Tule Vyema, a Community Based Organization that works to raise awareness on proper dieting practices in marginalized communities with an aim to eliminating the rate of malnutrition cases.

The organization's focus is on SDG 2; eliminating hunger and malnutrition. I do this by conducting nutritional education talks so as to make community members more conscious of their eating habits. In addition, Tule Vyema also teaches hand-washing skills and deworms children up to the age of 12 years. Over 300 school-going children from two schools have benefitted from the Tule Vyema deworming program with Ruiru Primary School being the most recent beneficiary.

In 2017, Tule Vyema was awarded a grant from Global Change Makers that has supported young women of reproductive age (20-30 years) to cultivate varieties of indigenous vegetables that are high in nutrients such as iron, a nutrient of concern among this age group. This is a step towards contributing to uptake of balanced diet in many households.

Looking back, I owe my success and the impact I have in the society to my experience at the YALI RLC East Africa. The Center believed in my ability and potential to impact and when I could not chew well enough, it weaned me into the strong authentic leader that I am today. It taught me to lead from inside of me, to appreciate diversity and to keep focus of my dreams, no matter how crazy. I am now confident of being able to turn any idea into a workable solution, thanks to the enriching and transformative training the program offers.

My ambition is to become a leading policy maker in areas of food security and to run projects that contribute to healthy eating in many communities in Kenya and Africa.

From Country-centric to Continent-wide dreams

By Kakel Mbumb

Democratic Republic of
Congo (Cohort 6)



Even though my professional background is in Computer Technology, I have a strong passion towards business and entrepreneurship, for this, I have taken a number of short certified courses to gain a clearer understanding of the field.

Over the years, I have had my hands in entrepreneurship and agribusiness engagements with the youth with a desire to change the lives of many young people in my country. I have served as a Co-founder and Coordinator of Agriprocessing and Pastoral Cooperative of Young Congolese (CAAPJECO), an organization that gives practical aid and advice to young farmers.

I also run a project, Solidarity Network of Young Congolese Entrepreneurs (RESOJEC) that supports aspiring and established entrepreneurs by facilitating coaching, mentoring, business registration, and access to financing.

Looking at what I do today, the YALI program was a turning point in my life. I am simply replicating the model of the Center, which is big on offering skills, resources and networking opportunities for young leaders. Had I not gone through the Center, I am sure I wouldn't be playing in the league I play today.



I am forever grateful to my friend who encouraged me to apply and I was accepted to cohort 6. I left the Center a more confident leader, with knowledge on pitching and where to look for opportunities to grow. It was just amazing how the program centers on the person to transform you from inside so that you never find yourself going back to do things the same way. You get to the Center and a fire is ignited in you to go all out to transform our dear continent. This is Africa class gives you a lot of emotions and you are angry about the perception of Africa, but passionate about your role in changing that. As an entrepreneur, the Design Thinking course becomes a game changer. You

learn how to make outstanding and powerful pitches and practice that with the design challenges presented by business organizations to the participants.

I had a “wow” moment while at the Center, when I collaborated with my fellow participants from Kenya to form a regional youth-centered project, Mashinani Hub. This hub incubates the youth from the rural DR Congo and Kenya, and we offer entrepreneurship and design thinking to enable the youth living in the marginalized and rural areas be innovative and disruptive to solve their challenges. We also link participants with mentors that help them follow their goals. Our core drive is to avail and link the youth to opportunities through provision of free internet and business training.

The hub is the definition of my transformed self. Before YALI, I thought my services were needed in DRC. I was just passionate about my country. I was focused on solving DRCs problems. Going through YALI, I actually was mad at myself for harboring such a limited world view. Today I am working to transform the

lives of young entrepreneurs in the East African region, and Mashinani Hub will soon be Africa wide. That is what YALI does to you!

Apart from the birth of Mashinani Hub while at the Center, I returned home to redesign the business model for RESOJEC, applied the pitching and networking skills I got from the Center, and today the project is in 14 counties across DRC, up from just two before my time at the Center.

When I look through the future lens of the RESOJEC network and now the Mashinani Hub, I see an entry point to opportunities of investment for the many local and foreign investors, and reduction in the rate of unemployment among the youth all over Africa

YALI fueled me to run my race, the race of amplifying impact in the lives of young people. I smile at the many independent thinkers and entrepreneurs I have guided to shine. I see a reborn Africa, and I will continue to do whatever I can to propel greatness and eliminate poverty in Africa.



Using Art-Therapy and English to Uplift the Community



By Audace Ndobahawe

**Burundi
(Cohort 19)**

I am an actor, artistic director and Fundraiser in Umunyinya Association, Burundi an organisation that I co-founded. Through art-therapy approach, I assist the community in relaying and addressing social problems that they encounter in their day to day life. I believe strongly that nurturing talent is of great value to the youth. I have created a safe space for those in my community where they can come together and work towards bettering their lives and also encouraging children who harbor artistic abilities.

Through my interaction with street children, I noticed that they have a zeal for acting but do not have any platform to enhance and showcase their talents. So far I have worked with over 50 street children to unveil their ability and ensure they live their dreams through acting. Through this, some of them have been able to

leave the streets as they make some money from their acts.

Burundi is mostly a French speaking country and hence I also volunteer as an English teacher. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in English Language and Literature from the University of Burundi. Through being a teacher I have helped more than 270 youth to use English to develop their businesses through writing proposals, business plans, reports and other content. My next plan is to extend both projects to those with physical disabilities.

What I learnt in the Center also trickled down to my personal life. Before joining YALI RLC EA program, I was in my church choir and was not really concerned about how it was run. When I came back, I noticed a leadership gap and decided to share my knowledge to enhance the capability of the choir members by helping them understand their contribution for the growth of the community. Their determination to extend this auspicious philosophy in their respective workplaces and families has been a success. This has also seen other people join the choir and currently we are 54 members.

My memorable moments from YALI RLC EA are the high ropes experience at Brackenhurst in Limuru where I overcame my fear of heights, testing our product to the customers during Design Thinking course, a colourful cultural event where people dazzled in their respective attires and the commencement day.



YALI RLC EA Un-locked My Potential in

Kevins Okello Randiek

Kenya (Cohort I I)



There are people who come into the YALI RLC EA program not certain what their purpose in life is. I was one of those. After completing my Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Masters of Arts in Communication Studies, I was sure I had my life all figured out. The usual, get a good job and go up the ranks. I joined one of the biggest media houses in Kenya, Nation Media Group. I left after a few years and joined a leading multi-national but I quit after 3 weeks! I was in a real state of self-discovery and confusion. The journey was difficult and I struggled to make myself rise up again. I was at a point I could not figure out what was going on with me. I took up the job of a communication advisor during the day and a taxi driver at night.

In pursuit of my purpose in life, I applied to YALI RLC EA, got accepted to cohort I I. Sometimes comfort needs to be challenged. That's when you really experience. Every day turned out different and I knew this was it. YALI RLC EA was that link to my vision. The curriculum placed me on the right path of self-discovery. I realized the World does not owe me a thing instead I owe the World a lot to leave it better than I found it. Through the work I do, I pursue human development through trainings centered on critical design thinking to trigger lasting behavioral, inspirational and societal change through content creation. I love being a servant leader where I share with others contributing to their development. Two years down the line, YALI RLC EA has made me advance the agenda when it comes to creating social impact projects. The Center gave me the confidence to amplify my voice.

One day, YALI RLC EA invited me to attend their speaker series dubbed 'Evening With' with Craig Arnold, President of The Dow Chemical Company, Sub-Saharan Africa. After the session, I approached Dow and asked if there was any communication opportunity I could plug into. Little did I know that this was the beginning of something great in my journey which was cemented further by my MCing at YALI@2000 and in the process Mumbi Keega, Public Affairs and Government Relations Manager East Africa at The Dow Chemical Company saw me on stage.

Dow called and for a period of 16 weeks, I was tasked with documenting science and technology and setting up a VVIP event launch to commission the water and de-fluoridation unit at the Little Sisters of St Francis Hospital. As a result over 6,000 students, patients, and community members would have access to clean drinking water.

Responding to this local need for clean drinking water, Dow tasked me to manage communication to its stakeholders that is USAID KIWASH (Kenya Integrated Water Sanitation and Hygiene Project), US Embassy and the Little Sisters of St Francis Hospital to ensure 100% delivery of this innovative water project. This being a social impact project, I handled videography, documentary production, photography, news releases, event management down to the security detail.

I choreographed the event route map and hosted the Under Secretary of Commerce for the United States Gilbert Kaplan, US Ambassador to Kenya Robert Godec alongside other dignitaries from the U.S. President's Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa. This project was huge to me, because I had to document it globally and I am so glad I did, my desire is to use communication to advance the global agenda. I will be documenting a similar version of this project in Serdo, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Each day, I strive to collaborate with like-minded partners to seek solutions to the complex environmental, economic and social challenges facing our world. The Dow project has immediate impact, and serves as an encouraging example of how Leadership Centers like YALI RLC EA can open up to partners and leverage on young minds' expertise to create sustainable communities and advance human progress.

I am happy with where I am. I do facilitation, speaking engagements and creating communication content. When not championing humanitarianism, I am developing integrated communication and marketing brand plans in African markets adopted and localized for different markets based on local and consumer insights through my organization Brand K Communications and Red Giant Media Ltd. I am a volunteer under the Citi Bank Foundation Global initiative which I have been part of for the last 5 Years.

I have created communication policy papers that have been adopted by governments for implementation. I am currently pushing for policy implementation on setting up technology hub centers in rural areas to advance youth development within Africa and I trust this will amplify economic growth and give the youth a voice in advocating and create employment opportunities. The presentations will be taking place at the African Union, Google Headquarters, University of Ghana and at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington DC. After a Presentation on a policy paper last year at the United Nations offices in New York on why investment in Africa is critical to create youth employment and push for eradication of poverty SDG 1, I was motivated to pursue this current policy push. I have acquired broad range of skills and knowledge which is key in driving different societal agendas tackling Humanitarian Advocacy, Education, Rural Literacy among others. I have travelled the World sharing hope with fellow peers and showcasing Africa as a continent of opportunities.

The journey has not been easy but if I can you too can. As young people of current generation, we need to pursue sustainable and lasting change that will keep Africa's dream consistent. The integrated approach contributes to the fight against extreme poverty by providing safe water to reduce illnesses that cripple productivity and building household and community well-being and prosperity.



YALI RLC EA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SALIM AMIN

Salim Amin, son of legendary Photojournalist, the late Mohamed 'Mo' Amin, is publishing a limited edition, exclusive, augmented reality (embedded video clips located throughout the book), numbered and signed photobook titled – Kenya Through My Father's Eyes.

Mo Amin was best known as a great frontline photo-journalist, but he spent more time documenting his country's beauty, culture, people and leaders than anything else. He was a leader because of the way he cared about people and our country. He was a leader through his honesty, courage, risk-taking and ability to recognize when people were being taken advantage of or in great jeopardy of losing their lives and all their worldly possessions. His lens documented some of the most important events in our country and Continent's history. For the better part of four decades, he was known as the "Eye of Africa". Mo would bring this to the World's attention and work tirelessly to make sure actions were taken. He was the voice for those that could not tell their tragic story or share their successes. Through the pictures, video clips and quotes in this book, you will see some of the traits of how real everyday leaders like Mo Amin are created.

These young leaders from across Africa are just the type of people Mo Amin loved to identify with whenever he would travel. Mo would have been a proud supporter of YALI RLC EA and Salim now hopes his work can serve to inspire YALI cohorts to even greater heights. Only 2,000 copies will be printed and Salim is graciously donating a portion of the proceeds from the sale of this book to support the RLC's sustainability efforts. Reach out to communications@yalieastafrica.org to request for the purchase form.



YALI REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CENTER EAST AFRICA PROJECT EXTENDED BY TWO YEARS



Some exciting news from the Center!

USAID has officially granted Deloitte a two year extension for the management of the YALI Regional Leadership Center, East Africa. This is exciting news all round as it affords us the opportunity to really concretize our sustainability efforts. Perhaps at no other time has the need for a Center like this been more critical.

We also appreciate the confidence that USAID has demonstrated in Deloitte, by granting us another two years to manage this highly impactful project.

David Kamau, Chief of Party at YALI RLC East Africa, “I am 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 and we will equip our participants to be innovative problem-solvers.”

From the YALI RLC EA Team, we are grateful to you, our partners, for the continuous support and we look forward to working with you in creating sustainability for the Center.

Impact that Matters



Asma Osman

Cohort24, Sudan,



is using ideas from Design Challenge to educate orphans on social innovation and was recently took the children to US embassy in Khartoum where they pitched their ideas to staff members



Eric Nehemiah

Cohort 3, Kenya,



was the recipient of the Caroline Mutoko Leadership Award 2018. He is the co-founder of Mathare Foundation, which has supported over 100 young people in Kenyan slums to channel their talents through providing training in photography and art



Victor Ndede

Cohort 22, Kenya



was overall winner of the Uongozi Institutes' 2018 Leadership Essay Competition where he wrote about 'Emancipating the Giant: The African Renaissance. The competition received over 2,000 applications from the youth of Africa who want to contribute to important discussions about leadership. He received an award from the former President of the Republic of Mozambique, Joaquim Chissano.



Maureen Muketha

Cohort 5, Kenya



In September 2018, got the privilege of attending and representing Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in the 2nd National Agri- Nutrition Conference held at The Kenya School of Government hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock , Fisheries and Irrigation. She presented on, "Knowledge, Attitude and Consumption of Selected Indigenous Vegetables among University Students".



YALI REGIONAL
LEADERSHIP CENTER
EAST AFRICA • NAIROBI



YALI REGIONAL
LEADERSHIP CENTER
EAST AFRICA • NAIROBI



Deloitte.

