



YALI REGIONAL
LEADERSHIP CENTER
EAST AFRICA • NAIROBI

Issue 9 February 2019

THE LEADING EDGE

An Update for Partners and Stakeholders

2,700+ ALUMNI





YALI REGIONAL
LEADERSHIP CENTER
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As one year ends and we begin another, it is a good time to step back for a moment to assess whether or not you achieved the goals you set for yourselves in the last year, and what you want to accomplish in the next. Every new year is a chance to start over; an opportunity to set a new path for yourselves. As young leaders, the aim is to make a positive impact in Africa. To empower those around us, to step into the next version of yourself, be more aware of your thoughts and appreciate the diversity in our continent. Let us generate ideas that will transform the communities, countries and Africa at large.

You can do this. You are the change makers.



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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

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IMPACTING FROM THE GRASSROOT

Waruguru Kiai

Cohort 5, Kenya

The YALI RLC EA program has greatly shaped my approach to social transformation in public service. For the last four years, I have engaged with more than 2,000 women and men with specific focus on devolved governments and good governance, financial literacy and access to government procurement opportunities. As a Nyeri County Youth Governor, I have engaged more than 100 Project Implementation Committees in over 10 Nyeri Constituency Development Fund Committees on Public Finance Management and Social Audit Strategies to avoid wastage of public resources. I have been able to leverage on the lessons learned to engage communities in Nyeri County in crafting solutions to issues that affect them through public participation and advocacy.



In recognition of my efforts, Parastatal News Services which focuses on development and performance awarded me with the 2018 International Women's Day Award – Nyeri County - for being an exceptional woman who has touched the lives of women locally.

YALI RLC EA challenged me to take a proactive approach in effecting community change through vision and thoughtful action. As the Founder of Africa Rising Solutions, a social enterprise that focuses on Social Justice Advocacy initiatives in Central Kenya, I have been able to engage in ward-level capacity building programs teaching groups on the importance of transformational leadership. In addition, I guide them on how to access Government financial and procurement facilities. Nyeri County is often in the news for the wrong reasons and I also do advocacy against Gender Based Violence. I have been intentional to reach out to those that are seldom consulted or listened to by leveraging on local churches and both National and County administration structures.

In addition to conventional capacity building methods, I also use new media to disseminate information, engage youth and call to action issues of importance, with my blog, www.nyerionline.co.ke, being one of the most read and authoritative on affirmative action matters in Nyeri County.

In navigating through my leadership journey as the Nyeri County Youth Governor, lessons from the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People and Design thinking act as my guiding compass in championing for youth inclusion in the county's leadership strata and prioritization on job opportunities and engaging youths in project planning, development and incubation of high potential ideas to steer development in the County.

In October 2018, I was elected to serve on the Youth Agenda Board as a Director. Youth Agenda is a youth led, youth serving organization founded in 1996, focusing on facilitating youth, national, county government & private sector engagements on participatory development of youth policies, plans, budgets, generating and disseminating youth focused information, providing youth employment and entrepreneurship support system and creating youth learning & mentorship platforms.





MICROSOFT CERTIFICATIONS FROM YALI RLC EA

Yaffet Girum Tesfaye

(Cohort 27, Ethiopia)

I broke YALI RLC EA's all-time Microsoft Office Certification record by scoring 936 out of 1000 on my Microsoft PowerPoint Examination. At 20 years old, I am also the only alumnus who has ever done and successfully passed the four main Microsoft certification examinations; PowerPoint, Word, Excel and Access.

When I joined YALI RLC EA program, I did not expect to leave with four Microsoft certifications. I had joined to be empowered in my role in youth advocacy. I am a student of Computer Science and Engineering, a man of many technological and IT aspirations. I was thrilled hearing about the Microsoft certification opportunity the Center offers to its participants, I was excited thinking about its impact in my life. The experience was priceless because I have always enjoyed a good challenge and best of all, they are free! If I had paid for the certifications, it would have cost me about \$1200! Thank you YALI RLC EA and Microsoft.

Taking all these exams made me a certified Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) and this is going to boost my career.

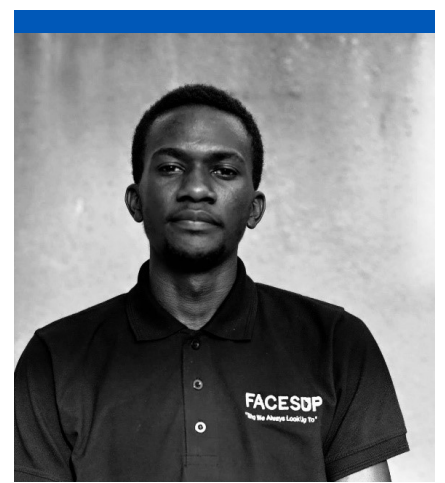
“Holding an MOS certification can earn an entry-level business employee as much as \$16,000 more in annual salary than uncertified peers.” Anderson, Cushing, and John F. Gantz. Skills Requirements for Tomorrow’s Best Jobs.

It is one of the stepping stones towards finding what I am truly passionate about in addition to giving me confidence and experience. Amazing opportunities await me in that the certification provides industry-leading assessments of skills and knowledge, giving students and professionals real-world exercises to appraise their understanding of Microsoft Office. In the worldwide job market, Microsoft Office Specialist is the primary tool companies use to validate the proficiency of their employees in the latest productivity tools and technology, helping them select job candidates based on globally recognized standards for verifying skills. I highly encourage others to do so as well. Participating in the program was a life changing experience as YALI RLC EA is all about the people and improving their skills.

IMPACT OF NETWORKING WITH ALUMNI

Ssekitto Kalule Emmanuel

Uganda, Cohort 27



I am a professional visual artist, founder and team leader at Faces Up Uganda, an NGO that empowers young people (10-25 years) in mentorship through creative arts to instil the 5Cs; Creativity, Critical thinking, Confidence, Consciousness and Contentment to reach their full potential. Joining the YALI Regional Leadership Center East Africa was something I had anticipated for a while. I had heard about the great work YALI RLC EA was doing in empowering young leaders all over Africa and being a civic leader optimistic about the future of Africa, it was an absolute delight to be there. I was impressed and at the same time positively challenged when I learned about the great work other young leaders were doing in their respective countries, which created a yearning for more of such stories.

There was a great vibe in between activities at the Center; whether during or after sessions with a variety of cultural music tunes playing in the background in the process exhibiting the rich diversity Africa is blessed with. The Design Thinking sessions were my favorite, probably because the work I do is inspired by creativity, human-centred and seeks to address the challenges in the education system in Africa from simple, appropriate and practical angles. Seven Habits of Highly Effective People stood out for me too and I apply the principles every day.

YALI RLC EA imparted in me the spirit of networking and teamwork to support other people and so far, I have managed to collaborate with others in my cohort. I have worked with Eleanor Odhiambo Sharon (Cohort 2) to initiate an arts activity at Kenyatta National Hospital in the cancer children's ward. I drafted her art activity work plans which she uses as a guideline to execute art activities. She has successfully conducted one and I was really happy to see the smiles from the children when she sent me photos. I have written another activity plan, which she will be executing soon and can't wait to hear of the results.

Another great connection was with Emmanuel Achapah (Cohort 27) with whom we have mutual interest in creative work and humanitarian work. . He offered to redesign Faces Up website and printing of message cards designed by the kids that we support.

In October 2018, Achapah travelled from Kenya to Uganda to support us. He helped me as we pitched our program to UNFPA seeking their support to scale up our work in order to reach those that need it the most in the rural areas. He met my other teammates, some of the children we serve and their parents. He also had a mentorship and motivational session with students and teachers at one of the secondary schools where we work. Achapah has given his time, experience and skill to technically support our work and people at Faces Up,



I have also done work for alumni; Shain Kazibwe (Uganda), John Froggy Ajingdit (Sudan), Karangi Brian (Tanzania), and Zachuas Ogonji (Kenya) to design logos and posters for their organisations in support of the great work they are already doing. I also often meet alumna, Dorothy Nabakooza (Uganda) to brainstorm ideas for her initiative that seeks to address bullying amongst young people in schools and other communities. I have also engaged many more in different capacities like through Faces Talks, one of our projects where we host various speakers on our Twitter page where they tell their impact stories to the World. It is always uplifting when fellow alumni get in touch with me and ask, "How are the children? How is your project going?"

After the YALI RLC EA program, I was shortlisted for an award competition called "What's your solution" by Sawa World International Uganda. Although we didn't win, it was another great platform for us to create awareness about our project and learn what other people are doing in a bid to transform Africa. I was also invited as a mentor into a mentorship program called Sauti Ya Sasa which seeks to build capacity for young people to improve their civic engagement in Uganda.

It is implemented by Action For Development which is funded by GIZ and co-founded by European Union in Uganda.

Through Faces Up, we have managed to directly reach a total of 3,320 young people in 15 schools both primary and secondary, and engaged 37 mentors from high profile positions in Uganda. Below are briefs about some of those we have helped:



Juliana Warija, 11 years old: Being a young refugee girl from South Sudan has not stopped her from following her dream of becoming a great footballer and runway model. We identified her interest of being a football player and model within three months during our engagement with her. We supported her by enrolling her in to a football academy where she now trains and we are always on ground to cheer her up and also transport her back to where she lives. World Bank got interested in her and donated three footballs to support her dream, and also featured her story on their website so that her story can inspire other refugees to follow their dreams. Daily Monitor and New Vision, major newspapers in Uganda also wrote about her.



Kato Katongole Osman, 12 years old: We first engaged Kato in 2016. He aspires to be an international hip-hop dancer and trainer who looks up to Abrahams Tekya a professional dance instructor and Reneus Bbosa, an award winning dancer. Our excitement here is that we have managed to link him up to both of them, whom he now trains with and gets supported by. In July this year, we helped him record a documentary with Deutsche Welle TV a media company from Germany in a documentary called #77 Percent which was well received. He has gone ahead to perform at various platforms including the the Break Fast Jam annual dance competition on November 2018.

For more information about Faces Up, check their website facesup.org.

DISABILITY IS NOT INABILITY

International day of disability was celebrated on 3rd December 2018. The theme was “Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. The theme focused on empowering persons with disabilities for the inclusive, equitable and sustainable development envisaged in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At YALI RLC EA, we are all about social inclusion and empowering young leaders who include Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) into the program. The PWDs are given special assistants who are trained to handle them and they stay with them throughout the 4-week residential program. They are given equal opportunities as all the others and some have gone on to do tremendous things after graduating from the program. In this issue we are going to cover a few stories about some PWDs who have gone through the program.

AN EMPOWERED GODFREY

**Godfrey Odhiambo Otieno,
Kenya, Cohort 28**



I am physically disabled on my lower limbs as a result of polio but this has not discouraged me at all. I am 32 years old and I lead monitoring and evaluation of VMMC data reports at Impact Research and Development Organization (IRDO) a position I have held for the last six years. I started off as an intern in the department and I worked hard to be where I am today.

After graduating from Kenya Institute of Management with a Diploma in Business Management and a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce (JKUAT) and a Diploma in Business Management, I volunteered at Cheshire Services Kenya, Kisumu Office, lobbying for inclusion of People Living with Disabilities (PWDs) in each aspect of life i.e. education, employment and in the society in general.

Before I joined YALI RLC EA, I feared responsibilities, did not understand the dynamics of teamwork and I had a belief that senior staff decisions were final and could not be contested even when I had facts. I did not believe in my capabilities hence I could not even think outside the box. However after my YALI RLC EA experience, I am now able to take responsibility with an open mind, I understand teamwork so well and can now give feedback on a decision made without fear. At the Center, I was equipped with skills and connections beyond my imagination which has resulted in a high self-esteem. I am also able to think outside the box and I am currently working on a business idea which will kick off in the first quarter of 2019.

I look forward to creating jobs for others but meanwhile I am taking some youth through a design thinking class to help them have an insight and think of how they can create employment. My YALI RLC EA experience has taught me to see situations people think are challenges as opportunities for job creation.

I AM NOT INCAPACITATED, I AM ABLE.

John Michael Orimbo

(Kenya, Cohort 10)



My disability has not hindered me from making impact in the community. I was not born with any form of disability. However, at the age of seven, I started becoming frequently sick. Diagnosis done by some doctors showed that it was as a result of a wrong polio vaccine administered to me at a popular hospital in the country. It took me some time to adjust but I was determined to live a normal life and to date, I am proud of my achievements.

The Center's experience is one of the best moments in my life as I was able to bond closely with everyone and build a strong network of friends. I was always mandated by my fellows to take the leadership mantle especially whenever critical thinking was needed. This always made me push beyond the limits and engage in servant leadership and until today, I still help my former YALI RLC EA colleagues as an advisor and mentor.

I am a Children Specialist in Education, Growth and Development. Until June, 2018, I served as a Public Policy Advisor for the British Council - Next Generation Kenya, a program that focuses on the aspirations dreams and frustrations of young people in regard to the youth employment status in Kenya. I am also a passionate Policy Advocate for PWDs, Global Youth Leader and Mentor, Environmentalist and SDGs Advocate.

I have vast experience with extensive engagements with the youth, children and PWDs over the years in numerous programs (UNEP, UNISDR, WWF-Kenya, British Council, YALI RLC EA, GOK MENR, UNMGCY, TUNZA, UNEP MGCY, National Youth Congress) among others within my community.

I am also gifted in the skill of drumming earning myself the nickname Johnny Drummer (JD). I am a professional drummer and I am able to earn from it while at the same time inspire other PWDs to believe in themselves and their skills which I like to call #LifeBeyondLimits (LBL).

I hold a Bachelor of Education (ECE) Education/Teaching of Individuals in Early Childhood Special Education programs from the University of Nairobi, Kenya. Currently unemployed, I am looking forward to landing a stable job where I can continue serving diligently and to provide for my family.

I have a vision that in 5 years, I will establish the first ever PWDs Empowerment Hub in Africa where I will focus on providing vital policy frameworks and dialogues, an enabling environment and safe space for growth and development towards the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of "Leaving No One Behind".

ETHIOPIA: I WILL RETURN

**Firehiwot Siyum Tadese,
Ethiopia, Cohort 10**

I am an intelligent and beautiful 27 year old lady living with disability and looking to make impact in Africa. I admit it is a challenge being disabled but it is made difficult by virtue of having barriers in access to resources and information. Physical and attitude barriers are the major challenges that hinder me in developing my career as a disability advocate advocating for disability justice. I am currently undertaking a graduate degree in Cultural Foundations of Education and Disability Studies from Syracuse University, New York.

Before my YALI RLC EA experience, I was involved in promoting Disability Inclusion in Ethiopia. I was working as Project Coordinator at the Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development, a pioneering organization in promoting disability inclusion and development. The projects that I engaged in focused on inclusive education and employment which saw me play a great role in improving the livelihood of persons with disabilities in Ethiopia. I had a great achievement in establishing the Ethiopian Business and Disability Network (EBDN) which addresses disability issues from a business perspective, by comprising companies and other employer organizations as its members. EBDN is a member of the International Labor Organization's Global Business and Disability Network (GBDN). After my studies in New York, as a way of giving back to my community as a servant leader, I plan on moving back to Ethiopia to start an initiative to impact the lives of disabled persons.

As an alumna of the YALI Regional Leadership Center East Africa, I found the program effective in bringing young African leaders together for innovative solutions on issues of Africa. As the training was participatory, it helped me improve my leadership, creativity, networking, and public speaking skills. I also learnt how to design a people-centered product or service and develop innovative projects through design thinking.

YALI RLC EA enhanced my personal and professional development and I have been able to realize and explore my potential. I now never forego any opportunities that come my way and this has made me shine in every aspect of my life. Professionally, the Center made me more passionate and enthusiastic about my career and enabled me to think beyond my community and my country, and go further to Africa and the world. Thus, I am more motivated and engaged to fight for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in Ethiopia, Africa and the World.



A BITE FROM A WILD DOG DISABLED ME FOR LIFE

Joyce Wesonga,
Kenya, Cohort 12

For a long time I suffered stigma and low self-esteem due to perceived inadequacies and incompleteness. People made me feel inadequate and non-existent because of my disability. When I was one and a half years old, I was outside playing and a wild dog attacked and bit me. I developed permanent disability with paralysis on the right side of my body. I come from a large family and accessing medical care took some time mainly because we were in the rural area in Western Kenya and also due to finances.



This led to high fevers and convulsions. When I finally managed to go to hospital, the doctors put me through treatment that included intense physiotherapy for almost a whole year. It was too late and I became permanently disabled. I am the seventh born in a family of eight girls and a proud mother of two lovely children. Coming from a community that still struggles to accept the female children, my parents made the best effort to offer me equal opportunity of education as my siblings

I am now 35 years old and I have a BA in Sociology from Maseno University and currently enrolled for a Master of Arts in Child Development at Daystar University. My passion is in ECD with a focus on ensuring every child has an opportunity to a good start in life to enable them realize their full potential.

I have over 7 years work experience as a development worker in Basic Education and Early Childhood. I have worked with Aga Khan Foundation, East Africa as a Project Assistant, Project Officer Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. I am currently working at Daraja Civic Initiatives Forum, a local NGO focused on improving lives of the marginalized communities in the urban informal settlements especially in Nairobi. I serve as the Programs Manager and Head of Secretariat, managing a team of seventeen staff.

I am forever grateful to the YALI RLC EA opportunity that came to me through a close friend who is a Cohort 2 alumnus. I had just conceived my second child and was out of work. Not sure what to expect, I set off to the Center. I joined the program with an open mind and the YALI RLC EA program worked on transforming my self-view. The course, Seven Habits helped me change my attitude and helped me realize my purpose and contribution to the community. I was challenged to offer service to community and conquer my fear of responsibility because of the stigma and low self-esteem I had gone through.

By the end of the program, I knew what I wanted to do post YALI RLC EA. Hence when the opportunity at Daraja CIF came up, I took it up knowing the organization was going through some transition, but I was determined to succeed. I worked for almost five months with only small allowances even though I had dependents. After YALI RLC EA, I spearheaded several programs but close to my heart is an ECD program dubbed 'BabyCares' that I implemented to care for small children. My YALI RLC EA experience was one of conquering my fears which has given me wings to fly and approach issues head on undeterred by my disability.





The Light in Nyarugenge

**Papi Sibomana,
Rwanda, Cohort 13**

I am a visually impaired young leader passionate about community transformation. When I graduated from University of Rwanda with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance in 2014, I was discouraged by multiple attempts made looking for a job in vain. I sent out many applications that I lost count but never received even an interview

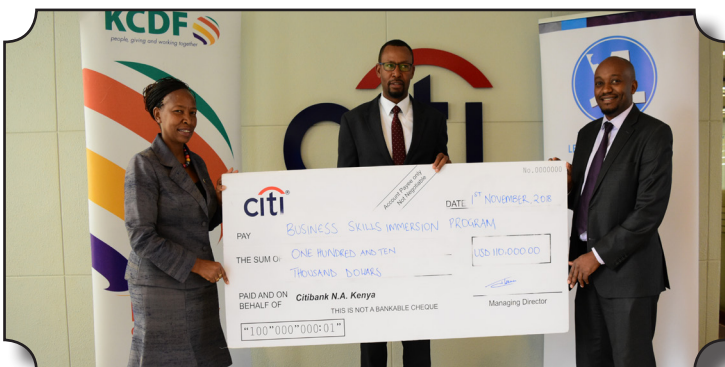
In early 2015, I decided to volunteer with Bright Future Cornerstone (BFC), a social enterprise that provides collaborative education for success in the area of leadership, tech-innovation and entrepreneurship. One of my responsibilities was to instill the culture of peer to peer knowledge exchange as a way of giving back to communities. This was an opportunity to collaborate, interact, and exchange knowledge with my peers in youth friendly centers while serving in my role of a business mentor. In June 2015, I applied to intern with the Ministry of Youth and ICT (MYICT), Kimisagara One Stop Youth Employment and Productive Center as an entrepreneurship trainer. With access to government data, I came to learn of the factual statistics of youth unemployment. I knew that this could be addressed with simple but efficient approaches to entrepreneurship. Having gone through the same, I was aware that unemployment is a big threat to the nation development and growth. I made a decision to play a role to change this situation.

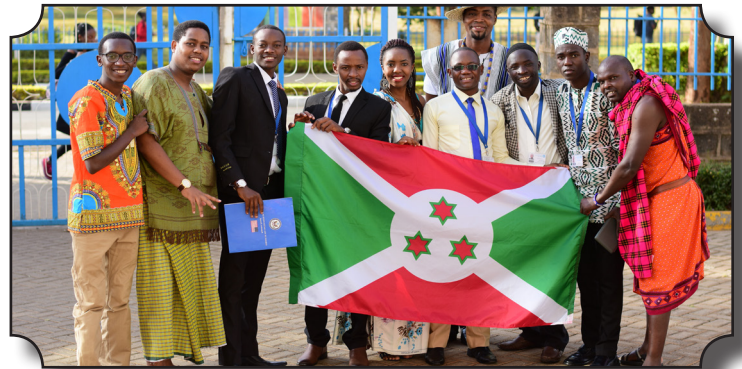
In November 2015, I applied to join Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT), with ambition to support youth to become innovators and leaders. As a Start-up facilitator and Business coach, my duties included but were not limited to the creation of new enterprises and strengthening existing ones. This saw generation of employment opportunities and creation of new ventures.

In 2017, I joined Umbrella of disability organizations Promoting Health and Fighting HIV&AIDS (UPHLS) among Persons with disabilities in Rwanda. UPHLS works in partnership with Education Development Center (EDC) for the implementation of its USAID funded Project Hugukenyeza. This is a 5-year project (2017-2021) that will provide 40,000 vulnerable youth, 36,000 new youth and 4,000 Akazi Kanoze alumni with employability skills by scaling up successfully proven Akazi Kanoze interventions, across 23 districts countrywide. As a Program Trainer, I use a series of inclusive innovations that will invite more youth to participate in Rwanda's historic transformation, particularly women and youth with disabilities. The project also targets vulnerable youth aged 16-30yrs living below the poverty threshold earning less than \$1.75 a day.

YALI RLC EA program through collaborative learning, exposed me to different skills in diverse areas of professional and leadership development. At the Center, I created networks with many cohort participants sharing perspective on youth empowerment and engaging in reflection about my role as a current and future leader. I have worked with a number of alumni on different professional and leadership projects and have had fun during the social meetings.

The YALI RLC EA experience was an opportunity for me to shape my leadership skills, passion and purpose. To apply my civic engagement theories learnt, I have influenced fellow visually impaired persons in my district Nyarugenge, Rwanda to come together and start an association called Urumuri (Light), to amplify their voice and advocate for their rights in order to actively participate in the community to fight against stigma and tackle poverty through initiation of income generating activities, and as well to build a strong inclusive community. No one should have to suffer because they are visually impaired.





THE HOPE THAT IS CONGO, BRAZZAVILLE



Staff-Alumni Engagements: Lillian Bogonko, Alumni Director and Brian Kizito, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager

The YALI RLC EA continues to build young leaders for Africa. The enabling environment at the Center characterized by a rich continental depth and experiences from 14 countries ensures our ability to fully engage in leadership in Africa. To help us count the gains that we have made thus far, the Center carried out an outreach trip to The Republic of Congo (Congo). This was a tremendous opportunity to witness first-hand the environments in which alumni operate and to participate alongside them as they carry out their activities. The visits to alumni were a testament to the transformations made in the different communities in Congo. Through the visits, it was evident that the alumni have also transformed their lives. Here is a brief summary of the visit:

Vulcain Yengo (Cohort 1) is a young man who has a vision of improving the lives of the young people in Brazzaville through enhancing their skills and supporting them in job creation through his Solar energy venture. After his YALI RLC EA journey he applied for the Mandela-Washington Fellowship (MWF) and while in the US was able to set up Entraide Congo. He later established an agency in the US to help in his fundraising efforts. By the time of our visit, he had taken up the whole building where they were housed and was expanding to include an incubation Centre. He showed us his sustainability efforts through the solar project that allows locals to rent the equipment at a reasonable fee to enable them charge their phones. He is also in real estate and has grand plans for Entraide Congo. To date, Entraide Congo has trained over 1,000 young people in Congo in business and entrepreneurship. Mr. Yengo has hired four fulltime staff who help in the videography and design of the content used for marketing Entraide Congo. What was amazing

about his approach is how sustainability was front and center in everything they did.



Fairchild Bamokila (Cohort 12),

is using robotics to enhance the leadership skills of youth in Brazzaville. He has also ensured that most of his employees and volunteers apply for the YALI RLC EA program by helping them learn the English language. He has seven employees, five of whom are YALI RLC EA alumni, and one will be joining in cohort 30. Listening to him talk about the challenges they faced which included visibility and getting partnerships, mentorship came out as a critical component of post program engagement.



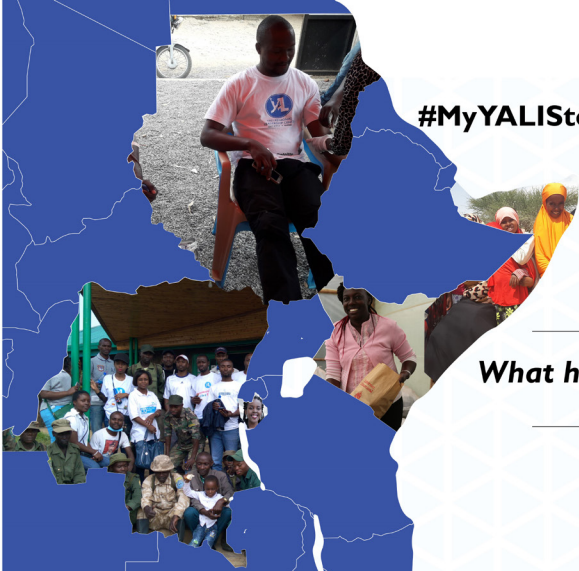
Ronnie Mbatchi's (Cohort 1),

life is inspiring hope for Congo. Driven by the dream of putting Congo in to the global map, he continues to take young men and women under his wings and dares them to be different in what they do in their communities. One of the notable activities that he has planned and helped execute was the Congo International Comics event that brought together more than 1,900 participants from across the globe. In addition to such activities, Ronnie has positioned himself in Brazzaville as an event organizer, owner of 'the best English club' and a designer. The US Embassy in The Congo has partnered with him in organizing and running some events.



Other notable alumni include Chester Mboko (Cohort 25) who is seeking to harness the power of collaborating with his colleagues from Kenya in order to venture into agribusiness. Precy Ndongui (Cohort 16), the chair of the chapter through his organization LEB Congo held an event that attracted more than 50 young people. The numbers of those who attended spoke to the hunger for entrepreneurial knowledge among the young people in the region. The event was graced by the United States Chief of Mission in Congo, Mathew Cassetta and a representative from The Congo Chamber of Commerce, Madam Florence. What was impressive about Precy and his organization, which he co-founded with another alumnus Kamou Kaya (Cohort 15) is that they met at the Center during the overlap period where Kamou was leaving and Precy was coming in for the next cohort. They decided to set up the organization and are now the only certified organization in Congo, Brazzaville offering 7 Habits by Franklin Covey. The opportunities for business are plenty in Congo, one only needs to look at all the challenges and see what the country needs. To say the least, Congo was a pleasant visit and we hope to return and check on the commitments many made.

Viva Congo Brazzaville!



#MyYALISStory #YALITransformation

What have you done for Africa?

Share your story through U-CONNECT
<https://alumni.yalieastafrica.org/stories>

USAID
mustard foundation
Deloitte

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Alumni Survey at a glance

Highlights on the survey

Targeted cohorts: **1 – 24 (2121 alumni)**

Rate of responses = **995 (47%)**

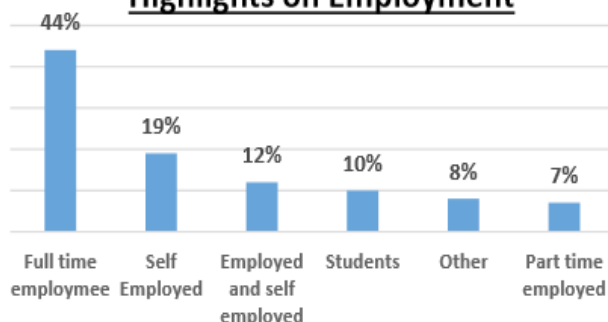
Geographical scope: **14 countries**

Survey timeline: Took **3 months**

Project GOAL

To Improve the cadre of youth leadership in the 3 strategic sectors (tracks); Civic Leadership, Public Management and Business & Entrepreneurship

Highlights on Employment



Highlights on Start-ups/ Ventures and jobs created

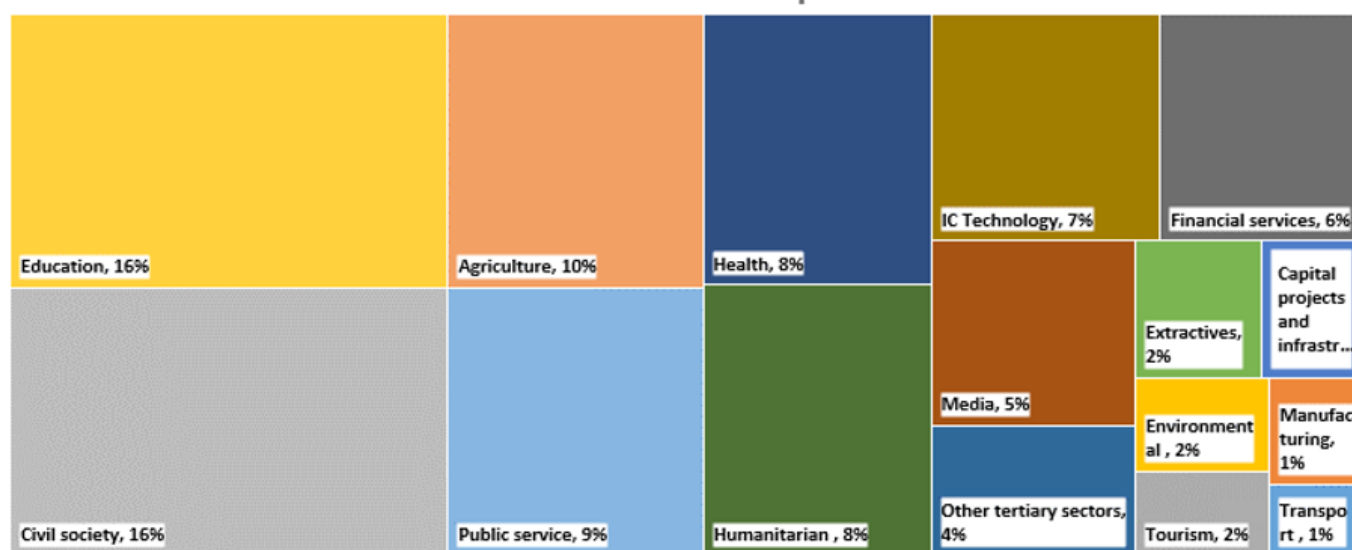
- At least **50%** of the start-ups started after training.
- 66%** of the ventures are able to offer jobs
- M: F = 3: 2** Gender ratio in new start-ups

Top 6 countries

Country	Percentage
Central African Republic	75%
South Sudan	57%
Tanzania	55%
Burundi	52%
Rwanda	52%
Uganda	52%

Common reason: participants were well equipped and had the necessary tools and networks to start up new ventures

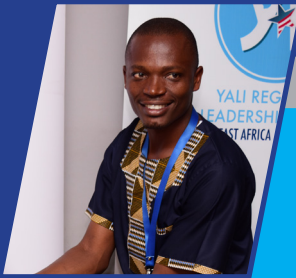
YALIRLC EA Alumni sector placements



Impact that Matters



Alumni Achievements



Robert Omwa

Cohort 27, Kenya



was awarded Head of State Commendation (HSC) from the President of Kenya for the work he does of protecting and defending the rights of children and girls.



Vincent Ocen

Cohort 25, Uganda



was elected and declared winner of the Global Youth Representative for Action for Sustainable Development Facilitation Group 2018-2020 at the UN Headquarters in New York USA because of his great strides in the grass roots campaign for Sustainable Development.

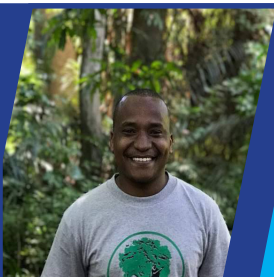


Douglas Ogutu

Cohort 28, Kenya



is the founder of Dowe Music & Arts. Credit Bank came up with an Innovation award in which start up owners were to compete. He took part and won the award which entailed a grant of \$500 as well as One year mentorship program. He also participated in UNODC conference where he developed a framework of youths in action against crime and drug abuse.



Daniel Maembe,
Cohort 20, Tanzania



one of the co-founders of Rau Eco & Cultural Tourism Enterprises was nominated and selected to be one among top 5 Global Landscape Heroes through One Trip – One Tree campaign that mobilise both local people and tourists to plant their own tree to conserve and protect Rau Forest Reserve and the same time to plant 1 million trees before 2030.

Impact that Matters



Nalwanga Resty

Cohort 16 Uganda



won a competition to name the community space at the Union Conference 2018, since the community members did not like the old name 'community corner'. The space has now being renamed 'community connect'. She was awarded at the Preparatory Meeting - 6th Replenishment Meeting of the Global Fund in New Delhi.



Dushime Franz Derrick

Cohort 26, Burundi



emerged one of the final 3 out of 52 candidates for the Africa Business Education Initiative 2018 representing Burundi. He was the only under 25 years from the private sector. The ABE Initiative accepts outstanding young working adults from Africa and offers them the opportunity to complete a Master's Degree course and serve an internship with a Japanese company of their choice.



Ssekitto Kalule Emmanuel,

Cohort 27, Uganda



was nominated for the Africa Youth Leader of the year through the African Youth Awards. His nomination was based on the work he does through his organisation, Faces Up Uganda, where he empowers young people through creative arts and mentorship.



Charles Bwanika,

Cohort 23, Uganda



was voted the Most Outstanding Male Alumni of the YALI RLC Uganda Alumni Chapter 2018 in December during the first ever YALI Awards in Uganda, where he was recognized for his civic leadership work under his co-founded Organization - Giving Children Hope Initiative (GCHI) being the Chief of Strategy at GCHI. Charles presented a paper at the 3rd Edition of the Wamala Region - Regional Child Rights Conference Oct 2018 in Uganda. He organized a 2 day stakeholders workshop in Mityana which brought together 65 key stakeholders both from government and non-state actors on streamlining best ways of engaging AGYWs in HIV prevention.

Impact that Matters



Samwel Maphie,

Cohort 28, Tanzania



was a finalist nominee at The African Youth Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) achiever awards (Youth inclusive category) in Accra Ghana. He was nominated from over 300 participants as a result of his SDGs advocacy through inspiring youth to take part to make Agenda 2030 a reality. In addition, he was the winner- Tanzania Youth, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) performer of the year, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



Divin Adamo,

Cohort 26, DRC



was selected as a speaker in the youth plenary of the 5th International Conference on Family Planning in Kigali, Rwanda after being selected as a youth video contest winner for young advocates of gender and rights to sexual and reproductive health. This major conference, which brings together all humanitarian actors and civil society organizations working in the field of sexual and reproductive health, gender and family planning, is financially supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Bloomberg School of Public health. It was an opportunity for me to raise the voices of young Congolese girls and boys who continue to challenge the norms and customs hostile to gender and sexual and reproductive rights by the different lobbying and advocacy.



Mohamoud Saed Adad,

Cohort 22, Somalia



was invited as a speaker to amplify the voices of Young African Leaders in the fight against radicalization and violent extremism workshop in Kampala, Uganda. As a young leader, he presented the effects of violent extremism to Somali youth and his role as Civil Society Activist in countering the extremism. In addition, Mohamoud was also invited to a workshop on "Empowering the community wellbeing" in Thies, Senegal from where he was introduced to new ways of empowering communities through participatory approaches.



Sebintu Patrick Kyeyune,

Cohort 27, Uganda



was recognized as one of the uprising young leaders and a judge in Uganda during Straight Talk Foundation 25 year celebrations. The King of Buganda Ronald Mutebi II was the guest of honour. He is currently volunteering with straight talk foundation focusing on advocacy, financial management skills, setting up income generating activities in youth clubs, implementing youth club activities and also works for NBS TV.

Impact that Matters



Joshwa Tambo

Cohort 11, Kenya



was invited to Budapest to attend the 2018 AFS Global Conference. He was one of the panelist in collaboration with Lehigh University, where they presented their views on “Deepening Cross-Cultural and Leadership Skills but Combining Immersive Diversity and Education Abroad Experiences”.



Wilhelm Owen Okoko,

Cohort 5, Congo



is officially a certified “Mindfulness and meditation trainer” to Peace Revolution by World Peace Initiative (www.peacerevolution.net). Being a Peace Architect means to encourage people to discover more themselves by enhancing their awareness through inner peace, self acceptance, emotional control, stress management, work/life balance cultivated by basic meditation to center the mind.



Mohamed Muktar Abdille

Cohort 23 , Kenya



is the Participant Engagement Committee Chair YALI Alumni Chapter of Kenya. He was invited by Somali Professional Network Eastern Africa to represent the Kenyan youth. The Invitation was mainly due to his active youth engagements in the country. Somali Professional Network is a global network of Somali Professionals with the objective of showcasing examples of innovative, creative and entrepreneurship mind across the World.



Betebebe Mulugeta,

Cohort 24, Ethiopia



was featured in AMREF's News section due to his experience from YALI RLC EA. He is a project officer at Arbaminch field office of Amref Health Africa in Ethiopia. <https://amref.org/news/team-leadership-experience-amref-shared-yali/>.



Christian Bateka Cohort 21 and
Gloria Isalu Cohort 17, DRC



were awarded \$5,000 at Youth for Africa and SDG 2018 held in Nairobi, Kenya, because their mobile app, Lobiko has helped to educate and reach out to low income women and ladies about health education in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Health in DRC is a real challenge due to poverty, lack of supportive health education programs and access to health information.



Nahom Teklu Bekele

Cohort 27, Ethiopia



was selected to be a participant in the World Youth Forum 2018 in Sharl El Sheikh, Egypt. He was also given recognition by Association of Ethiopian Architects for attributing an article for the association's 20th annual journal whose vision is to enhance the built environment in all parts of Ethiopia through design excellence and promotion of health, safety and welfare of society.



Sophie Safi Mambo

Cohort 26, DRC



Arigatou International, through its End Child Poverty initiative, interacted with us and asked us to show the actions we are taking to help reduce the forms of poverty in our community, which particularly affect children. "Global actions for a world without child poverty"; we published the measures taken to combat child poverty in our communities through photography. And on 10th of December I won the 2018 AWARD.



Izaq Kamau Cohort 25

Christine Mutisya Cohort 17

Bonface Nyalwal Cohort 23, Kenya



are part of VLage that aims to provide affordable decent co-living spaces in various cities in Africa. They participated in a hackathon by the Shelter Tech Accelerator Program and emerged as one of the winners thus gaining entry into the acceleration program. They also participated in a one-day innovation bootcamp by Escalino where they emerged as the winners.



Emmanuel Dushimimana

Cohort 27, Rwanda



was invited to participate in Peace Revolution Alumni gathering where he received an award of recognition for his peace building activities in Rwanda. His club was also nominated among 2 best peace clubs in Eastern and Southern Africa region. He believes that World peace is still possible once every one of us learn how to cultivate inner peace at individual level and share it with others.



Ronald Hakiza

Cohort 1, Uganda



Founder of UgaBus, he won the prestigious African Entrepreneurship Award 2018. The Award seeks entrepreneurs that create jobs and improve lives across Africa in two business categories, Innovation and Sports Categories. Innovation in businesses means introducing a new technology, new business model or attempting to solve a problem that's never been solved before. UGABUS provides online bus ticketing to hundreds of travelers on Uganda's thousands of daily bus routes.



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