



Meet the YALI Alumni

Lungisa Sobhuwa Education Changers Cohort 1 (2020) South Africa

Lungisa Sobhuwa's passion for education is helping underprivileged children learn to read.

Lungisa's literacy project for primary school learners is being implemented in the Philippi community of Cape Town. The [Sikhululekile Reading Development and Life Skills](#) project's main focus is to teach underprivileged children reading and English comprehension skills to improve school performance.

English is the language of instruction in most schools in the country, therefore, the ability to read and write lays a strong foundation for successful learning. In addition to the reading skills, Lungisa provides learners in Philippi with reading and writing material and literacy games to help improve their literacy and numerical skills.

The peer learning sessions he implemented have been the most impactful as proven in a survey he conducted in March, 2021 which showed improvement in reading and writing in 60 percent of learners. As a result of the literacy project, learners participating in the program have also shown an improvement in confidence levels and the ability to express themselves more assertively.

With schools closed during COVID-19, Lungisa created a zero-rated website that would allow learners without access to the internet and data to access key learning materials. He also completed the compilation of a book titled "[The Monster in a Mask](#)" with contributions from beneficiaries of the project. The book raises awareness on child and human trafficking and other community issues.



In addition, Lungisa built successful partnerships with key organizations like Children of South Africa (CHOSA), Albany, The Lunch Box Fund and the National Lottery for support.

Lungisa said the Education Changers training was transformational and exposed him to a wide network of young people from across the continent who are driving change in their communities, helping to make it safer, better and more inclusive.

"The fellowship was a problem-solving platform where young leaders from across the African continent gathered to deliberate on solutions to tackle problems in their communities," he said.

For more information on USAID's Young African Leaders Initiative visit www.usaid.gov/yali

