The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) is the U.S. government’s signature effort to invest in the next generation of African leaders. Launched in 2010, YALI consists of three programs – the Mandela Washington Fellowship, the YALI Regional Leadership Centers, and the YALI Network.

The Regional Leadership Centers (RLCs) empower and connect young African leaders ages 18-35 to transform their communities and the African continent. The Centers provide in-person and online training, networking, and professional development opportunities in business and entrepreneurship, civic leadership and public management. Established through public-private partnerships, the RLCs capitalize on the dynamism of the private sector and the institutional capacity of African higher education institutions.

OUR UNIQUE APPROACH

The RLCs have empowered 20,000+ young leaders across every country in sub-Saharan Africa who represent a diversity of language, culture, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Our unique approach defines leadership differently by:

- Encouraging participants to serve their communities, be a positive influence for transformational change, and advocate for inclusive socio-economic growth.
- Developing and supporting a professional network of uniquely trained, highly qualified leaders in three tracks of study.
- Encouraging alumni to give back through training other leaders, ultimately creating a multiplier effect.
- Supporting a holistic curriculum that goes beyond training to immerse young leaders in an interactive and experiential education model.

THREE TRACKS OF STUDY

CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Young leaders are civically engaged citizens and serve the public through non-governmental organizations, community based organizations, or volunteerism.

PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

Young leaders work in various levels of government including regional, international or publicly-minded organizations and think tanks.

BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Young leaders are emerging entrepreneurs who take on leadership roles within the private sector or build their own business ventures on the continent.
“YALI has made me think beyond my community and my country... Now, I am much more motivated and engaged to fight for the inclusion of persons living with disabilities not only in Ethiopia and Africa, but also globally.”

FIREHIWOT TADESE, ETHIOPIA

**OUR IMPACT**
Upon graduation, alumni overwhelmingly report positive impacts on themselves, their careers, and their communities.

- **97%** stated their **decision making ability** increased
- **72%** reported an increase in **personal income**
- **90%** reported that YALI significantly improved their roles in **community work**
- **68%** of women reported spending increased time on **economic activities** after YALI
- **59%** reported **owning a business** after YALI

**OUR PARTNERSHIPS**
60+ organizations, $20M+ leveraged through:

- **Cash contributions**: enabling YALI to directly fund the costs of our programs
- **Non-financial support**: Leveraging wider resources to scale our impact through professional opportunities, business expertise, and technology