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Stephanie Mikulasek

Division Chief, Education and Youth

Bureau for Africa

United States Agency for International Development



Imagine..



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- **Freedom to choose**
 - **Dignity and recognized as a person of value**
 - **Order and opportunity in that predictability**
 - **Justice, equity, fairness**

Belonging.



Young people make up 71% of the 1.37 billion persons in Africa.

In the words of Her Excellency Amira El Fadil, Commissioner of Social Affairs, African Union Commission, "They make up the largest proportion demographically and have been revealed to be invaluable partners and stakeholders in the journey to Agenda 2063 of the Africa that we want. "



Challenges



Opportunities

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- ✓ Assets
 - ✓ Agency
 - ✓ Contribution
 - ✓ Enabling Environment



Access

Youth are better able to access high-quality information, safe services, and livelihood opportunities and to build the skills they need to lead healthy, productive, and engaged lives.

Too often the services provided by local governmental agencies don't take into account our realities and needs as young people, leading to us too often not taking advantage of these needed resources."

- Youth Listening Session Participant

Participation

Youth have the right to fully participate in decision-making as key partners to contribute to individual, household, community, and national well-being.

“Prioritize youth in the design phase as it gives youth ownership of the project and its strategic direction. Having your voice heard is empowering. Relationships should continue after as well, such as through listening sessions.”

- Youth Listening Session Participant

Systems

Youth have a stronger collective voice in, and are better served by, local and national systems through more coordinated and effective services, practices, and policies that embody the principles of positive youth development.

“Being able to influence conversations dedicated towards improving the lives of other youth like me is the first step to a better society.”

-Youth Listening Session Participant

Objectives

- . Youth have better access, and contribute to household, community, and national well-being.
- . Youth fully participate as key community partners, leaders, innovators, and researchers
- . Youth are actively playing roles in peacebuilding and civil society.
- . Youth have a stronger voice in, and are better served by, local and national institutions

Youth are partners, not beneficiaries.

A photograph showing three young African professionals in a computer lab. A man in a colorful patterned shirt is seated at a laptop on the left. A woman in a yellow patterned headscarf stands behind him, looking at the screen. Another woman with braided hair, wearing a black cardigan over a red and white checkered shirt, is seated at a laptop on the right, also looking at the screen. The background shows other people and computer monitors in a bright, indoor setting.

**Young Africa Leaders Initiative
(YALI)**

THREE PROGRAMS



Mandela Washington Fellowship (MWF)

The flagship YALI exchange program brings young Africans ages 25-35 to the United States for six weeks of academic coursework, leadership training, networking, and mentoring.



Regional Leadership Centers (RLCs)

The RLCs are YALI's on the continent leadership training program. Located at higher education institutions in Ghana, Kenya, Senegal and South Africa, they offer unique experiential leadership training programs to young leaders ages 18-35.



YALI Network

The YALI Network is an growing online community of over 700,000+ young leaders across Sub-Saharan Africa. Members have access to virtual resources and online courses.

USAID YALI REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CENTERS (RLCs)

- **RLC West Africa** Dakar, Senegal: Centre Africain d'Études Supérieures en Gestion (CESAG)
- **RLC West Africa** Accra, Ghana: Ghana Institute for Management & Public Administration (GIMPA)
- **RLC Southern Africa** Pretoria, South Africa: University of South Africa (UNISA)
- **RLC East Africa** Nairobi, Kenya: Kenyatta University (KU)



HIGHLIGHTS

- **22,000+** alumni from 49 countries in sub-Saharan Africa
- **3 Tracks:** Business/Entrepreneurship, Civic Leadership, Public Management
- **Private sector engagement:** 60+ organizations, \$20M+ leveraged from American universities, US and African companies, foundations, NGOs
- **Sector specific programming** in Energy, Education, and the Circular Economy with partners including Power Africa, Dow, HP, and the Trevor Noah Foundation
- **Institutional strengthening** for higher education institutions that host the YALI RLCs

Voices of Youth in Africa



Voices of Africa is a community of empowered young women and men that are engaged to support their communities to take control of their own development through information and education.

They work in four critical areas: environmentally sustainable development, health, income generation, and education.

Voices of Africa are mainly young men and women. They have dreams, are ambitious but are concerned about their future that seems to have ever decreasing opportunities. They want a fair chance and an even playing field. They want job opportunities and business opportunities.

They want their voice to count and to live decently.

Voices of Africa are young children who want access to good educational opportunities, access to quality health and other socio-economic infrastructure. They want to be seen and heard. They want their future in the world assured in their home countries, like other children's.

They do not want to die crossing oceans in small boats in search of a decent life.

Voices of Africa are young men and women, talented, skilled and full of promise; yet discontent with the status quo and frustrated by the perpetual issues that plague the continent. Though they may seem themselves as Africa's future, some feel empowered to confront the challenges while others feel helpless.

These voices of Africa could be powerful catalysts for Africa's transformation or if not heard, could be a ticking timebomb...a powerful force whichever way it is applied.

These young men and women need recognition and support to harness their potential by building capacity for quality education and skills improvement, health and well-being, good governance, human rights and accountability, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, leadership skills, and empowerment.

They are the largest single resource for the development of Africa.



Thank you