



Meet the YALI Alumni

Raharilala Fleurot Argal Cohort 5 (2016) - Madagascar

Raharilala Fleurot Argal is an educator. Like many in the education profession, he saw a need to help those transitioning out of high school in his native country of Madagascar struggling to meet the admission requirements of higher education institutions regarding understanding the English language and wanted to help.

While serving as a Boy Scout coordinator in his hometown of Antananarivo, he experienced the problems first-hand on how difficult it was for high school students meet those minimum English language standards.

That's the point where Argal decided to pursue a career in education and help those in his community learn to read, write and understand English. Upon completion of his master's degree in education, Argal applied for the USAID's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) at Regional Leadership Center for Southern Africa in Pretoria, South Africa under the Public Management track.

He was accepted and embarked on a new path gaining the leadership skills he needed to start his own non-profit organization, called Voluntary Objective works (VOW).

VOW offers mentorship and educational support to high school English learners by teaching English lessons, hosting career guidance expos, essay competitions, and student debates that are designed to help learners articulate themselves and hone their English literacy skills, as well as their public speaking skills.



Since its inception, VOW conducted 15 career guidance expos and public debates in five rural schools across Madagascar.

Argal said the YALI leadership training helped him to further refine his project design, management, and implementation skills and advanced his interpersonal communication skills which is crucial to the work of the organization since the work involves extensive consultation with the communities, they work in.

“Since launching our non-profit, we have been able to reach over 2,000 learners in different schools across the country,” Argal said. “We get funding from our partners and YALI equipped me with the skills and competencies I needed to become good at resource mobilization and partnership building.”

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

