



What is YALI?

With a population of 1.3 billion people whose median age is 19 years old, one of Africa's most important resources is its youth. By supporting the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), we work with public, private sector, and civil society partners across the continent to develop initiatives and economic opportunities to harness the innovation and energy of Africa's youth. Assessing ways to expand YALI and our engagement with Africa's youth will be a priority for the Africa Bureau.



Through YALI, the United States is investing in an emerging generation of young African leaders by committing resources to enhance leadership skills, invigorate entrepreneurship, and connect young African leaders with one another, counterparts in the United States, and other innovative leaders in both private and public sectors. Young people not only are shaping Africa's future, but also hold the potential to be a powerful force for change on the continent.

USAID is proud to be part of this U.S. Government initiative and works closely with the Department of State and the U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF) on program implementation. USAID is responsible for the management of programming at the YALI Regional Leadership Centers (RLCs) located on the African continent.

The Department of State is responsible for the U.S.-based annual Mandela Washington Fellowship and monitoring the virtual YALI Network.

USAID's YALI RLCs at a Glance

- Since 2015, USAID's YALI Regional Leadership Centers (RLCs) have collaborated with higher education institutions and the private sector to equip young leaders with the skills to catalyze economic, political and social change in their home countries.
- The four RLCs, located at higher education institutions in Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, and South Africa, offer experiential leadership training programs to young leaders ages 18-35 in three tracks: business and entrepreneurship, public management, and civic leadership.
- Leveraging resources from the private sector—including U.S. and African companies—the RLCs have graduated more than 24,000 leaders.
- More than 2,000 applicants seek one of the 100 spots available for each cohort, which reflects an acceptance rate on par with elite universities in the United States.

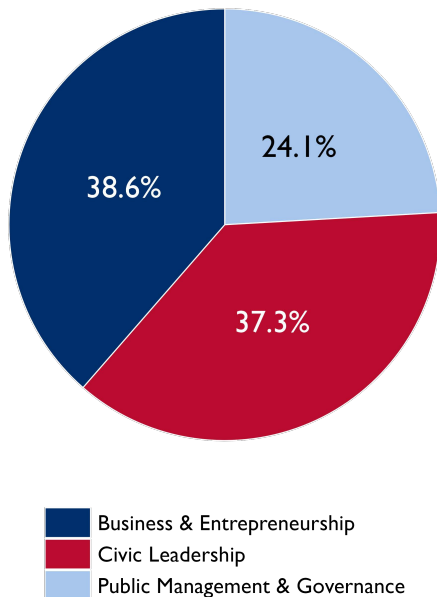


Alumni Trends and Demographics

Course Track Trends

Over the past seven years, the Business & Entrepreneurship track is the most popular among students, totaling 8,035 graduates. The Civic Leadership track closely follows with 7,768 graduates, and the Public Management & Governance track with 5,037 graduates.

Business & Entrepreneurship is favored among students in Southern Africa and West Africa, Dakar. Civic Leadership is favored among students in East Africa



Key Demographics

- 47% of graduates are female.
- 1% of graduates identify as non-binary.
- 16% of graduates reside in rural areas.
- 13% of graduates reside in peri-urban areas.
- 2% of graduates report a disability.

In addition, YALI addresses gender issues across the continent through its inclusive leadership training, including the achievement of a 1:1 gender parity goal

- Each YALI RLC curriculum incorporates gender equality sessions
- YALI will intentionally invest in and recruit rural women, women with disabilities, and LGBTQI+ people to help address the historical exclusion of marginalized women across Africa's development.



Contact us at:
www.usaid.gov/yali
AFRICANLEADERS@USAID.GOV
Twitter: [@YALI4AFRICA](https://twitter.com/YALI4AFRICA)

