



# YALI REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CENTER EAST AFRICA • NAIROBI

## YALI Regional Leadership Center East Africa Focuses on Empowering Youth Leaders in East and Central Africa

**Friday, October 9, 2015**—Today, 78 young African leaders from 13 countries in East and Central Africa completed a 12-week transformational learning and enhanced leadership skills training program at the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Regional Leadership Center East Africa (Center) in Nairobi, Kenya. The center is part of U.S. President Barack Obama's flagship program, the YALI, aimed at investing in Africa's future.

*"We are delighted to invest in the next generation of African leaders. These young people [in the inaugural class] have the potential to transform their community, the region, and even the continent itself." -- Mark McCord, YALI Regional Leadership Center Director*

The Center, located at Kenyatta University, provides a collaborative learning environment stressing individual responsibility, innovation, and results-oriented leadership. The innovative learning environment is the result of a public-private partnership that embodies the spirit of creative collaboration.

Selected from a pool of more than 1,400 applicants, the 78 young African leaders represent the promise of an emerging generation of entrepreneurs, civic leaders and public officials. They are all between 18 and 35 years-old and have demonstrated leadership.

The graduates will return to their respective countries where they are expected to give back to their communities through involvement in country alumni chapters. Alumni will continue their learning, help shape future cohorts of the program, and apply the lessons, tools, and techniques learned to benefit their communities.

The YALI Regional Leadership Center East Africa is made possible by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in partnership with the MasterCard Foundation, Kenyatta University and Deloitte. The Center is also supported by a growing number of African and international partners.

*"The Center would not be possible without the support of our private sector partners. Their investment in the future of young leaders in Africa will reap benefits for decades to come." -- Kimberly Kippels, USAID YALI Regional Coordinator East Africa*



**BACKGROUND**

*In July 2014, President Obama announced the creation of four Regional Leadership Centers in Ghana, Senegal, Kenya and South Africa. These centers serve as regional hubs across the continent to encourage transformational learning and enhanced leadership skills. The YALI Regional Leadership Centers are a project of USAID in close partnership with the MasterCard Foundation. Each Regional Leadership Center is managed under a public-private partnership. The YALI Regional Leadership Center East Africa, serves 14 countries in East and Central Africa, namely; Burundi, Central Africa Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. The center is overseen by Deloitte East Africa and is supported by a growing number of African and international partners.*

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