



FACT SHEET



President Barack Obama answers questions during a town hall at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa, June 29, 2013.

YALI Regional Leadership Centers

“No matter how old you grow, I say to all of you today, don’t lose those qualities of youth — your imagination, your optimism, your idealism. Because the future of the continent is in your hands.”

— President Barack Obama
South Africa, June 2013

President Obama launched the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) in 2010 to support young African leaders as they spur growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across Africa. Through YALI, the U.S. affirmed its commitment to investing in the next generation of African leaders. The Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders was the first flagship of YALI. The YALI Washington Fellows Program far surpassed expectations: 50,000 bright young people applied for the opportunity to become Washington Fellows — only 500 were accepted or one percent of applicants. The establishment of [YALI Regional Leadership Centers](#) in Africa is a central part of that commitment and will enable us to reach this unmet potential.

What Are YALI Regional Leadership Centers?

The YALI Regional Leadership Centers (the “Centers”) will improve the availability, relevance and quality of leadership training programs for tens of thousands of young women and men across sub-Saharan Africa. Building on existing infrastructure to provide state of the art facilities, the Centers will reach tens of thousands of leaders in the public, private and civil society sectors by providing continuous leadership training and networking opportunities through three core components: Leadership Training; Incubating Organizations and Entrepreneurship; and Networking.

Where Will the Centers Be Located?

The aim is to establish an initial group of 3-5 Regional Leadership Centers in sub-Saharan Africa with the potential to grow the network of Centers once the flagship sites are operational. At least one Center is expected to be located in each of East, West and Southern Africa, forming a network to serve young leaders from all countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

How Can Organizations Be Part of the Centers?

The Centers will leverage existing initiatives and stimulate new and innovative relationships to support Africa’s future leaders. The Centers are leveraging support from a number of U.S. government agencies but their ultimate success is dependent on commitments from and ties to the private sector. Each Center will run as a public-private partnership, capitalizing on the energy and dynamism of the private sector, the knowledge of African and American institutions, and the programmatic and educational resources of the U.S. government. This is an excellent opportunity for private sector partners to showcase their commitment to developing Africa’s next generation.

Organizations that are interested in supporting YALI Regional Leadership Centers should contact USAID to discuss the extent to which a proposed idea aligns with overall YALI goals.

For additional information, visit www.usaid.gov or email us at africanleaders@usaid.gov.