



OMLA NEWSLETTER 2022 FIRST QUARTER

"The best way to predict the future is to create it." By Peter Drucker

Dear OMLA Friends,

With the outrageously violent month of war going on, our world needs to rid itself, democratically whenever possible, of "leaders-of-the-past."

We need "leaders-for-the-future" for whom war is a nonstarter, who lead to serve and not to control, and who possess a big self, one that goes beyond "me", "here", and "now". This continues to be the work of OMLA, and it is a true pleasure to work with the 20 fellows in 13 countries who are now involved in our instrumental fellowship program. A long-term challenge for sure, but every step on the journey is worth the effort. www.onemillionleadersafrica.org

The first quarter of the year 2022 had its highlights, moving us in the direction of achieving our vision. In this newsletter, we are happy to share the following updates with you from the secretariat team.

Thank you!

THE OMLA FELLOWSHIP - IMMERSION



For six weeks, effective from January 21, 2022, Phase 1 of the OMLA Fellowship, which is tagged, "Building Skills for Community Change Project," kicked off with 22 Fellows from 13 African countries. This phase involved five journeys viz: identify, explore, plan, implement and evaluate. Fellows were equipped with skills needed to guide them and their potential stars through the process of creating solutions to social problems in their communities. They were shown how to dive deeper into the technicalities of finding sustainable solutions to social problems by learning to explore the root cause(s) of the social problem and analyzing it. Embarking on journey three, the planning stage, they were taught how to create concrete plans to bring their ideas to life, create SMART goals, develop simple project proposals and design a detailed budget. No matter how laudable a project proposal is, the impact can only be known and felt when it is implemented. Journey four, which is "implement," detailed how the Fellows are to implement their project proposal and budget. They designed project activity plans that will serve as their blueprint for execution. Finally, they were taught how to monitor and evaluate their project, providing honest feedback aimed at improving their projects. After this series of training, the Fellows had a clear view of their activities for the fellowship and made a minute pitch (elevator pitch) of their project aspirations for the fellowship. You can watch a few of them <u>here</u>.

Moving forward and finalizing the immersion stage, the second phase of training, "African Values" commenced immediately. Fellows were trained on the values they must uphold as Next Gen Leaders, as well as the OMLA core values. This process enables them to embrace the core values of Hard Work, Discipline & Orderliness, Honesty, Justice (for both humans and environment) and Character in order to enhance peace and sustainable development in Africa. This training will be rounded up this week and the Fellows are going to write a book on "African Values for Next Generation Leaders" with the help of the facilitator. We are going to update you on our progress with the book.

THE OMLA FELLOWS



The OMLA pioneer Fellows are young visionaries who are solely engaged in social entrepreneurship. They are always willing to strive to make Africa an empowered and enlightened continent.

You can please read about OMLA 2022 Fellows on our social media platforms. We upload a profile of each of the OMLA Fellows weekly on our social media platforms, or follow us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>twitter</u>, <u>Instagram</u> and <u>LinkedIn</u> to know what our fellows are currently doing in their projects and in their fellowship year.

Also, let me quickly introduce you to two of our Fellows, Limbi Tata and Mukete Ernest.

Limbi is a 2022 OMLA Fellow working in her organization, Ecological Balance Cameroon, which is within the context of her youth empowerment strategy that seeks to inspire youth to make and be the change the world needs. Very importantly, she wants to promote positive thinking, and bring to light and amplify the successes (no matter how small) of the average Cameroonian youth. Her goal for 2022 is to significantly reduce the unemployment rate by 2030 (by creating sustainable businesses).

Ernest is also from Cameroon and is working towards a sustainable change in his community. Ernest is passionate about transforming the agricultural system of education in Africa from theory to practical, from chemical to organic. He is the founder of Global Youth Transformative Aid (GYTA) and possesses innovative agricultural skills in creating self-sustainable jobs in the agricultural sector in Cameroon. Ernest has a target population of youths, women, and girls. His goal for 2022 is to reduce poverty in the North West region of Cameroon by creating selfsustainable agricultural jobs for 50 youths, women, and girls in each of 5 sub-divisions.

THE FEAT: FELLOWS' CHALLENGE

Now that the first stage (Immersion) of the fellowship has been concluded, only 20 of the initial 23 Fellows successfully completed this stage and will move on to the second stage of the fellowship.

Right now, Fellows have gone back to their communities to recruit OMLA stars to be trained and mentored to solve social problems in their communities. The OMLA Stars are young people who aspire to create social projects within their communities. Starting from April, OMLA Stars that each Fellow recruits will be uploaded on our website and the Fellows will commence their trainings immediately over the next 3 months before they start to execute community projects.

In this pilot phase, each fellow is going to recruit 50 OMLA Stars that will execute community projects in groups (of 10 OMLA Stars each), therefore we will have 100 community projects (20 fellows * 5 Star groups) executed by 100 OMLA Stars group (1000 OMLA Stars). During the community project outreach, the 100 OMLA Stars' group will recruit 50 OMLA Starlets each. The OMLA Starlets are young people who aspire to create lasting changes in their communities and will join the Stars to execute the community projects. Altogether, 6,020 (20fellows + 1000 OMLA Stars + 5000Starlets) young leaders will join the OMLA Alumni community come December 2022.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The OMLA fellows organized an event to commemorate International Women's Day tagged "Gender Equality for a Sustainable Tomorrow: Breaking the Bias." The Fellows had a panel discussion on some factors that causes gender inequalities and the necessary steps to break the bias factors that will be a good foundation for gender equality.

STRATEGIC MEETINGS

We hold bi-monthly meetings with the OMLA founders where we give updates from the secretariat and discuss steps to move forward. NLU – Next Leaders University, a learning platform, is used as a training resource for the OMLA Fellowship trainings. So, our fellows have a dashboard where they can access all their training materials and upload assignments and projects. Meanwhile, conversations with the persons of contact in these departments are still ongoing with the target of joining forces to review and update the dashboard as much as possible to deliver the Africa we envision in the next decade.

In the same vein, we hold monthly check-ins with the other regions of the OML project; OMLATAM (One Million Leaders Latin America), OMLMENA (One Million Leaders Middle East and North Africa) and the OMLAS (One Million Leaders Asia) team to share ideas and strategies that will move us forward.

OMLA Fundraising.

On behalf of the Founders and Board of OMLA, I want to appreciate our donors and partners. Your support helps to empower young, heart-centered leaders across the continent. Up until now, we have raised \$12,387 through the <u>Globalgiving</u> platform and \$15,000 through other means, particularly wire transfers. Altogether, we have raised **\$28,523.81**, while we still need about **\$31,500** to finance the pilot year of the OMLA Fellowship program and make it a success.

You can continue to support us financially via any of our platforms <u>here</u>. Do not forget that with as little as **\$13 USD**, you can raise a heart-centered leader that will help transform Africa today!

We upload our monthly report financial reports to our website. You can them view here.

Dear Partners and Supporters,

On behalf of the OMLA Founding Members, Mentors and beneficiaries across Africa, I would like to appreciate your support towards developing and empowering a million credible young leaders that will help put the continent on a more sustainable and prosperous path by 2030. Please do share this with family, friends, colleagues, and anyone else who is interested in supporting Africa's progress. We look forward to a more productive engagement with you in 2022 and we hope you do too.

We wish you an excellent second quarter ahead!

Prosperous Africa,

Mary Afolabi

OMLA Project Director

To volunteer or for enquiries please reach out to the secretariat.

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