

NEWSLETTER

"It always seems impossible until it's done"

- Nelson Mandela

October, 2023

Dear OMLA Friend and Supporter,

Welcome to the third quarter newsletter of OMLA! We are excited to share with you all the latest news and updates about our programs and other engagements.

This quarter has been busy for us, but we're proud of all we've accomplished. We launched a leadership boot camp for teenagers in secondary schools, which has been well-received by local government, parents, teachers and community inhabitants. We also concluded the second cohort of the OMLA Fellowship.

In this newsletter, you'll learn more about:

- The OMLA Boot camp for teenagers
- Overview of our fellowship second cohort
- Information about the fellowship next cohort application
- And more!

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and learning more about OMLA. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,
The OMLA team

OMLA FELLOWSHIP

Africans were ready for change, and then came the OMLA Fellowship. From the humble beginning of 100 applicants in the first cohort (2022) of the fellowship to a staggering 2000+ applicants in the second (2023). Our journey has been marked by growth and ambition. Along the way, we've faced and overcome challenges. Embarking on a mission to empower young Africans, the OMLA Fellowship has become a beacon of change and leadership. Our goal remains to nurture credible leaders who are committed to igniting positive transformations in their communities. Each cohort of the fellowship involved rigorous selection criteria focusing on social work, leadership, and commitment. Despite diverse Afrocentric challenges, we've created a fellowship filled with promise.



2023 OMLA FELLOWSHIP

A Transformative Journey began in late January with a 6-month adventure: From building project skills to recruiting and training other young Africans who are passionate about change (OMLA Stars), to executing impactful community projects, albeit with delays leading to a 7th month for graduation.

Our commitment to sustainable leadership cannot be overemphasized, through training in community engagement, fundraising, and project management, our Fellows and Stars become champions of change. Despite challenges like internet issues, they've continued to shine, mentoring their Stars. The cohort was structured to ensure that the fellowship goals for the fellows as well as stars are met.

255 OMLA Stars from 9 countries identified specific problems in their communities and executed 15 projects to solve/mitigate the challenges. Our projects align with OMLA's values and strive to uplift communities. Each project tells a story of hope and transformation.

At the end of the fellowship, we are glad to have raised a total of 268 young and credible African leaders who have gone through intensive training on Leadership, Sustainability, Social Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation and affected their communities positively by solving social problems in 15 communities from 9 countries through the community-change project they executed. Watch out for the next application in November 2023 on our [website](#).



Makurdi, Nigeria



Uganda



Jos, Nigeria



Ghana



Zimbabwe



Enugu, Nigeria



Ekiti, Nigeria



Lagos, Nigeria

2023 Alumni Induction

At the end of the 2023 fellowship, 268 young OMLA leaders are ready and fit to join the Alumni community.

Good news! For the OMLA Stars, only those who are not willing to enrol for the next fellowship cohort will be inaugurated into the Alumni Fellowship, which implies that OMLA graduated Stars can still enrol for the fellowship but this will hinder them from joining the Alumni community if they win the fellowship. Kindly note that applications for the 2024 cohort will be opened in November. Stay tuned on our [website](#) and social media pages.

OMLABLOG

Are you leadership-driven? Do you want to know and learn more about sustainability, leadership, and entrepreneurship?

OMLA Blog is your way to go! Kindly visit our website to stay updated. Click [here](#) to read more.



[OMLA APP](#)

EVENTS COMING UP! JOIN US

Monday, October 9 – Healthy Lives, Healthy Planet: Exploring the Nexus of Healthcare and a Sustainable World with Adekemi Adeniyani, a dentist and the Founder of “Dentalcare Foundation”, which offers free oral health education and treatments in underserved rural areas of Nigeria. Dive with Adekemi into the connection between health and the environment.

Thursday, October 19 – Book Discussion: The Overstory by Richard Powers, a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel in which trees are the protagonists—and prompts to co-imagine futures.

Wednesday, November 1 – SDGs for Small Enterprises & Grassroots Initiatives with 2023 OMLAS Fellow Sher Shah Khan Bangash, who is the founder and CEO of The Sustainability Front, a tireless SDGs advocate and a mentor across the globe. You'll uncover insights on navigating the challenges faced by enterprises in developing countries, learn how to forge impactful partnerships to amplify your SDG efforts and more.

Young leadership for a sustainable world is our mission. Join us. Dare to partner with the future!

[ACCESS THE APP](#)

ONE MILLION LEADERS AFRICA BOOTCAMP



A Bold Move! Amazing Results

It was time for a more robust and more effective pipeline to achieve the OMLA Goals. The maiden edition of the boot camp was no doubt a resounding success. One Million Leaders Bootcamp is a flagship project of One Million Leaders Africa aimed at High School students.

At the heart of Imafon, Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria, the summer of 2023 witnessed the ignition of a transformative vision: The One Million Leaders Africa Bootcamp (OMLA 2023). The boot camp's vibrant young minds, aged 11 to 18, embarked on a week-long journey exploring realms of leadership and sustainability, entrepreneurship, climate change and more.

The One Million Leaders Bootcamp is not just an event; it's a movement organized by NELIS. OML seeks to connect, inspire, and empower a million young minds from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and MENA by 2030, creating leaders capable of forging a positive and sustainable future. This year's Boot Camp is the pilot program for teenagers, focusing on reaching out to secondary school students.

In March, our team visited 17 designated schools, bridging the gap between urban facilities and rural potential, announcing the upcoming boot camp and setting criteria for participation.

Post notification, on-site interviews were conducted, filtering down 296 candidates to 116 promising young leaders.

With thoroughness, the selected 116 students were provided with consent forms to secure their participation, ensuring a holistic involvement of students, parents, and schools.

With maximum security and health checks in place,

72 zealous participants marked their attendance, immersing themselves in the OMLA experience.

The training sessions ranged from understanding climate change and its mitigation, leadership skills, career orientation, embracing technology, and entrepreneurship.

To spark their creativity, they were exposed to different entrepreneurship skills, including a visit to Springboard Food Hub to facilitate an industrial viewpoint on entrepreneurship, bolstering the theoretical lessons with practical insights.

A memorable closure saw parents, teachers, and sponsors gather, celebrating the achievements, skills, and products crafted by the students.

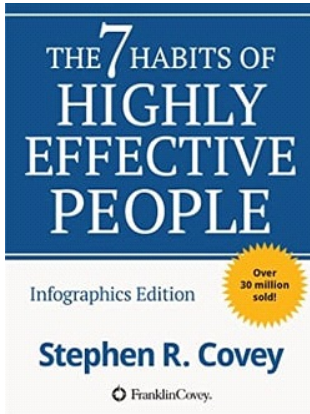
OMLA 2023 Bootcamp has set a high benchmark. The young minds' potential, combined with expert mentorship, has proven that with the right guidance, Africa's future is bright. We await the next edition, envisioning greater reach, richer content, and deeper impact.

The vision turned into reality due to the generous contributions and partnership of organizations and individuals:

Ondo State Ministry of Education, Sunbeth Global, Lynne Murgia, Springboard, HRM Olumafon of Imafon, Barry Callebaut, Durian Crafts Village, Epudom Water, Accent Business Academy and Kridens High Schools.



From dedicated NYSC members to passionate society members, our 11 volunteers made OMLA a smooth sail, reiterating that together, we can.



BOOK OF THE MONTH

Why should you read a book this month? reading improves your focus, memory, and communication skills. It also reduces stress and helps you live longer.

OMLA Book of the Month is **THE 7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE.**

So many of us are outwardly successful but still find ourselves wrestling with our inner habits. Enter bestselling author Covey's seven habits to help you become more productive, build stronger relationships, and focus on priorities.

CLOSING NOTE

On behalf of the OMLA Founding Members, Mentors, and Beneficiaries across Africa, we want to appreciate your support towards developing and empowering a million credible young leaders who will help put the continent on a more sustainable and prosperous path by 2030. Please share this with family, friends, colleagues, and anyone interested in supporting Africa's progress.

We hope that you will continue to engage with our quarterly newsletter. We wish you an excellent last quarter ahead!

To a Greater Africa,
Mary Afolabi
OMLA PROJECT DIRECTOR