



# OMLA FELLOWS MAKING A DIFFERENCE ACROSS AFRICA

**"IT IS IN YOUR HANDS TO CREATE A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL WHO LIVE IN IT." - NELSON MANDELA**

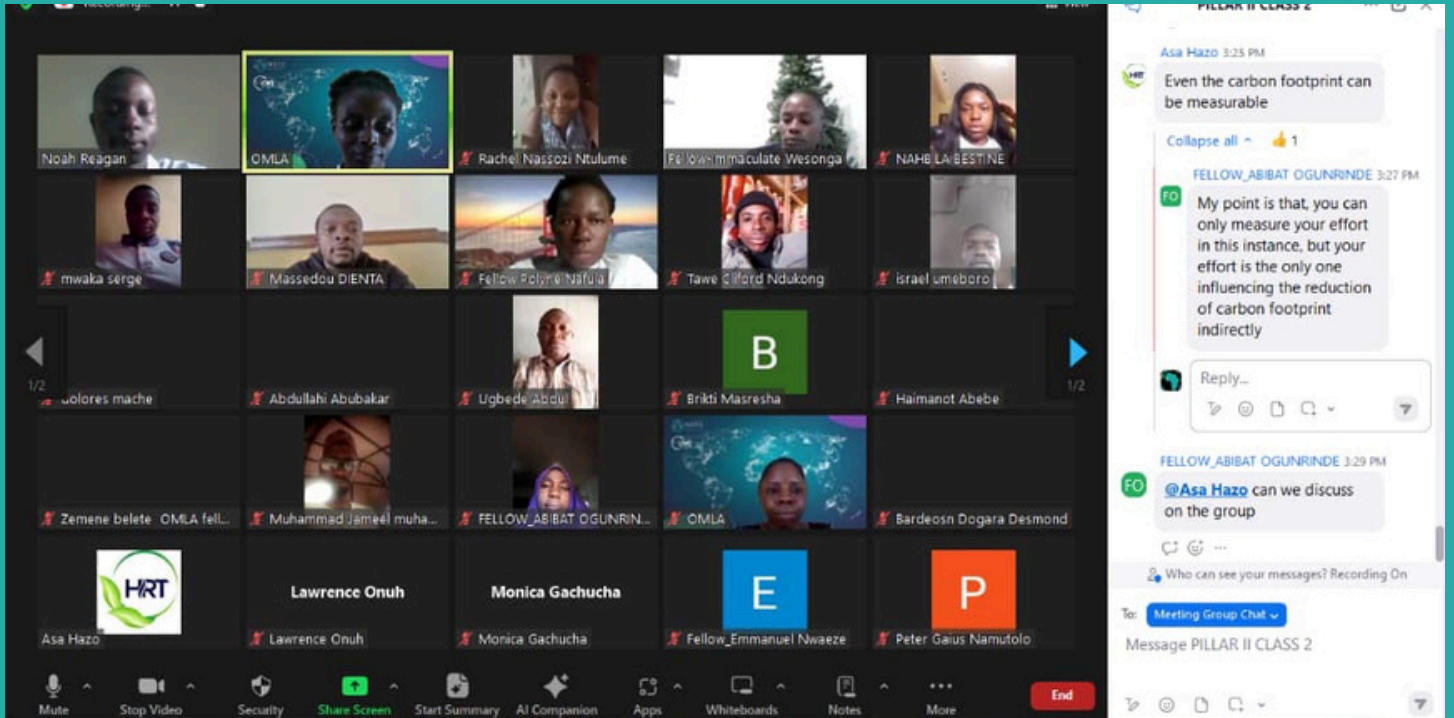
## Quarter 1 Newsletter, 2025



**Dear friends, and stakeholders,**

Welcome to the first quarter newsletter! We're excited to share the progress and achievements of the OMLA project and its impact on young leaders across the continent. This quarter, we've focused on expanding our reach both locally and internationally and organizing more impactful and engaging programs to empower young Africans. We remain committed to empowering the next generation and look forward to your continued engagement.

Thank you!



## Writing a Good Project Proposal and Developing a Project Pitch

# OMLA Fellowship

In January, we opened applications for the 2025 fellowship (cohort 4) and received over 3,000 applications from 38 African countries. Following a thorough screening process, 283 young Africans from 25 countries were selected for the fellowship. The 2025 Fellowship Inauguration was successfully held on February 21, 2025, marking the commencement of a transformative experience for these emerging African leaders.

A highlight of the inauguration was the participation of esteemed alumna, Adekemi Adeniyen, whose presence enriched the event and provided valuable insights for the incoming cohort. The inauguration also served as a valuable platform for networking and fostering connections among leaders committed to driving impact in their respective fields. The OMLA Fellowship journey began on March 6th with the first curriculum pillar: "Starting My Social Enterprise." Facilitated by Kiriinya Kithinji, a seasoned entrepreneur and trainer, and the WYLDE team, the session proved to be both engaging and insightful. The sessions explored key elements for a thriving social enterprise, including

defining your social impact, market and branding research, crafting a strong value proposition, client acquisition strategy, identifying the critical success factor and target client and legal and operational consideration. OMLA Fellows were equipped with the tools to translate their ideas into viable ventures and create positive impact in their communities. The "Starting My Social Enterprise" pillar concluded on March 28th with an inspirational seminar themed: "Running a Successful Social Enterprise." The seminar featured guest speaker Lawrence Aferi, Co-founder and CEO of Springboard. Fellows have submitted deliverables for Pillar I, including their social enterprise's name, objectives, vision and mission statements, and theory of change. The fellowship training is demonstrating a positive impact on the Fellows' perspectives. On April 3rd, we commenced Pillar II of the fellowship curriculum, titled "Writing a Good Project Proposal and Developing a Good Project Pitch." These training sessions are also being conducted by the WYLDE team. The expected outcome of this pillar is that Fellows will develop compelling project proposals and pitches.

## OMLA Alumni

Alumni Induction ceremony 2025 OMLA Alumni-Bulletin: The Alumni Bulletin celebrates OMLA fellows' achievements, featuring Esperant Gada (2023 fellow) as the "Alumni of the Month" for his youth empowerment work with NAYLDIS. It also shares global opportunities and upcoming alumni events.

**Alumni Induction Ceremony:** On February 22, 2025, the OMLA Alumni Induction Ceremony was held to welcome new members into the OMLA Alumni Network. The event celebrated the achievements of the newly inducted alumni, strengthened connections between past and present members, and encouraged networking and collaboration.

**Alumni Insight Forum:** The 2025 Alumni Insight Forum will be a monthly virtual event, taking place on the last Friday of each month from April to December 2025. These sessions, held via Zoom, are designed to facilitate knowledge sharing, professional development, and networking among alumni. Each session features an alumnus presenting innovative ideas or industry insights, with topics chosen based on coaching needs (e.g., technology, climate action, entrepreneurship). Alumni can apply to present via a Google Form, and presentations are done with PowerPoint after an executive review



## OMLA BOOTCAMP AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

The first quarter saw significant activity in both OMLA Bootcamp planning and ongoing OMLA Club engagement:

- **Bootcamp Expansion:** Preparations for the 2025 OMLA Bootcamp were a key focus, with activities aimed at expanding the program's reach through school notifications, mapping new partner schools, and candidate selection processes (shortlisting and on-site interviews).
- **Club Empowerment:** OMLA Clubs in partnering schools actively engaged in promoting awareness and positive social change through campaigns related to:

oInternational Day of Education

oInternational Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation

oInternational Women's Day

Directives were provided to OMLA Club supervisors to ensure effective club management and impact.







The OMLA team is incredibly grateful for your ongoing support. Your contributions are vital to our mission of developing and empowering a million young leaders throughout Africa. Together, we are committed to building a brighter future for the continent.

We encourage you to share this newsletter with individuals and organizations interested in supporting Africa's progress toward a more sustainable and prosperous future by 2030. We value your continued engagement and support.

We wish you all the best in the months ahead!

**Sincerely,**  
**Mary Afolabi**  
**OMLA Project Director**

