

Y2L ALIVE

ILF GLOBAL

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Photo courtesy: ILF-Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Recent reflections on ***developing our young people*** highlight the fact that it ***is a process*** and not an event. Character development is critical in this process. Leadership and character development focus on cultivating core virtues like integrity, humility, courage, and accountability, rather than just technical skills. ***Character-driven leaders realise transformation in themselves first, and then they begin to see changes in their relationships.*** This ultimately shows in their organisational performance and can be reflected in higher asset returns. ***Character development requires intentional reflection, practising ethical decision-making, and fostering empathy.***

Character in leadership refers to ***who*** a leader is, particularly when no one is watching, forming the foundation for judgement and behaviour.

The importance of ***a leader's identity*** is at the heart of why they do what they do. It is from ***who they are, their core values, their confidence and their service.*** This determines their behaviour, and their ethics. Essential traits include ***integrity, courage, humility, compassion, and accountability.*** This is the transformation that we endeavour to see in our young people engaged in the Y2L initiatives.

During the month of February, I was excited about the two Y2L trainings in Benin and Togo where a total of 67 participants have committed to starting Leadership & Development Studies (LADS) programmes with young people in their spheres of influence. Let us join in the development of the next generation for a better present and future.



Dr Laura Mantsa

Africa Director—Y2L/LADS

YOUNG LEADERS LEAGUE

ETHIOPIA REPORT PART II



Adama City, one of the fastest-growing cities in the Oromia Region, hosted two landmark leadership events that underscored its commitment to governance excellence and youth development.

Strengthening City Leadership

The day began with a high-level Leadership Training Programme for members of the Adama City Cabinet, including the City Vice Mayor and the Property Party Head. The session brought together senior officials committed to advancing effective governance and transformative public service. The distinguished speakers included Prof Delanyo Adadevoh, Prof Mike Wicker, and Dr Koh.

Through engaging presentations and strategic dialogue, the speakers addressed key themes such as visionary leadership, ethical governance, institutional capacity building, and sustainable development. The session reinforced the importance of character-driven leadership in public administration and community transformation.

Celebrating 76 Young Leaders in Education

The second highlight of the day was the Young Leaders League (Y2L) Certification Ceremony, where 76 High School Directors were formally recognised for completing the Y2L leadership development programme.

The certificates were presented by Dr Laura Mautsa, Y2L Africa Director, who

commended the directors for their dedication to cultivating leadership within their schools and communities. The certification represents a significant investment in strengthening educational leadership and empowering the next generation of leaders across the region.

In a special gesture of appreciation, the Mayor of Adama City presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Stephen Adu-Amoani, ILF Executive Director for Africa & The Caribbean, in recognition of his outstanding leadership and contribution to advancing transformational programs within the city.

A Day of Impact and Excellence

Both programmes were exceptionally well organised and successfully concluded, reflecting strong collaboration between city leadership, educational stakeholders, and international facilitators.

The events of December 29 stand as a testament to Adama City's forward-looking vision—investing in leadership at both governmental and educational levels to ensure sustainable growth, ethical governance, and empowered communities.

By Teddy Mandefro
Executive Director—ILF Ethiopia

TOGO REPORT



Photo courtesy: ILF-Togo

Members of the Y2L facilitators team arrive in Lomé, Togo to begin leadership training.

From left to right:

- **Jonas Selby**, Y2L/LADS
Director, Ghana
- **Janet Makenta**, Y2L/LADS,
Nigeria
- **Oddon Gilles Mukari**, ILF-
DRC

Y2L Togo recorded an encouraging milestone with 41 participants actively engaging in the recent leadership training sessions. The strong turnout reflects growing interest and commitment to transformational leadership development within the country.

Most notably, participants have committed to launching eight (8) LADS groups, signaling a powerful step toward grassroots implementation. This commitment represents more than numbers; it reflects readiness to translate learning into action by creating structured spaces for character formation, values-based leadership, and community impact.

The establishment of eight LADS groups marks a significant expansion of Y2L's footprint in Togo and demonstrates a clear momentum toward sustainable leadership development. As these groups begin meeting, they are expected to foster accountability, strengthen collaboration, and nurture emerging leaders who will positively influence their schools and communities.

Y2L Togo continues to build a strong foundation for long-term impact, one group and one leader at a time.

BENIN REPORT



Photo courtesy: ILF-Bénin

We marked an inspiring and impactful moment for Young Leaders League (Y2L) Benin during the “History of Ideas” session.

The programme created space for deep reflection and meaningful dialogue as participants explored the rich history of Bénin, and examined the tremendous contributions and efforts of the nation’s youth over time. The discussions highlighted how ideas shape societies and how young leaders can intentionally influence the future through character, vision, and responsibility.

A special highlight of the session was the contribution of Dr AGOLI-ABGO Albéric Léandre Vignilé, a history lecturer at the university and Director of ILF-Bénin, who joined the programme to deliver the capstone address following participant presentations. His insights brought academic depth and historical perspective, affirming the importance of understanding the past in order to lead effectively in the present.

The Bénin cohort hosted 25 participants, primarily drawn from various NGOs, demonstrating strong civic and community engagement within the programme. In a further sign of momentum and growth, five LADS classes are scheduled to commence in the coming week, a significant step forward in expanding leadership development efforts in the region.

The session was a powerful reminder that leadership is rooted in ideas, shaped by history, and strengthened through action. Y2L Bénin continues to build a generation of thoughtful, informed, and transformational leaders.

ZIMBABWE REPORT



Photo courtesy: ILF-Zimbabwe

The Young Leaders League (Y2L/LADS) recently facilitated a Prefects Leadership Training at New Leaders Flame Primary School, empowering 28 prefects with practical leadership tools grounded in strong values.

The training focused on character development, integrity, servant leadership, and the power of leading by example. Emphasis was placed on teamwork and collaboration as essential pillars in cultivating a positive and unified school culture. Learners were challenged to take ownership of their responsibilities, embody the standards they expect from others, and work together in building a supportive and disciplined environment.

Rooted in the belief that leadership formation must begin early, the programme is committed to catching them young; intentionally nurturing young leaders of integrity before negative influences shape their character. By investing in learners at the primary level, Y2L/LADS seeks to build a generation that leads with courage, accountability, and moral clarity.

The sessions were interactive, reflective, and impactful: strengthening the learners' confidence and equipping them to serve their school community with clarity, purpose, and responsibility.

TESTIMONIALS - ETHIOPIA

"Through the '12 Cs' framework, I discovered that true leadership isn't about a title; it is about the 'inner power' of a good heart and strong character. I am now more committed than ever to serving the people of Ethiopia with a matured sense of responsibility and a dedicated spirit."

**—Dr Alemu Gonfa
Member of Parliament, Ethiopia**



"This training has completely redefined my understanding of leadership. I've realised that being a leader is a profound responsibility that begins within; you must first lead yourself with a good heart and strong character before you can hope to lead others."

**—Zemu Tesfa
Member of Parliament, Ethiopia**



Photos courtesy: ILF-Ethiopia

HIGHLIGHTS



Photos courtesy: ILF-Ethiopia

