



About The National Democratic Institute For International Affairs (NDI)

NDI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nongovernmental organization that has supported democratic institutions and practices in every region of the world for more than two decades. Since its founding in 1983, NDI and its local partners have worked to establish and strengthen political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, and promote citizen participation, openness and accountability in government. www.NDI.org

About the National Consultative Forum of Political Organizations (NFPO)

The National Consultative Forum of Political Organizations officially recognized in Rwanda is a platform for dialogue and exchange of ideas among political organizations on the country's problems and national policies. It is also a permanent framework for capacity building for member political organizations in the field of political organization and activities, and is also used as a framework for conflict mediation and for the promotion of the code of conduct which should characterize the political leadership in Rwanda. www.forumfp.org.rw

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The Rwanda Youth Political Leadership Academy



A partnership between
The National Consultative Forum of Political Organizations & The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs

The Rwanda Youth Political Leadership Academy

Pilot YPLA

Since September 2008, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) has assisted Rwandan political parties, in partnership with the National Consultative Forum of Political Organizations (NFPO), to build capacity to organize and communicate with supporters. In 2009, political parties requested NDI's assistance to further develop the capacity of young party members. In response, the Institute piloted a Youth Political Leadership Academy (YPLA) in Kigali, in partnership with NFPO and with funding from the US Agency for International Development (USAID). NDI and NFPO



academies developed a curriculum to provide Rwandan youth with practical political skills through three months of intensive political training sessions. The four top-performing students traveled to Accra, Ghana on a study mission.

YPLA Success Stories

Nearly all of the 34 pilot YPLA graduates held substantive responsibilities during the 2010 presidential election process. The Social Democratic Party nominated YPLA graduate Theodomir Niyonsenga to serve as the party's second deputy general secretary. Graduates Claudette Mukabasebya, Pie Nizeyimana, Telesphore Hakorimana, and Sada Uwase joined a national observation mission, while others served as political party agents at polling stations, trained fellow party members in campaign skills, or helped to organize campaign rallies and get-out-the-vote efforts. Two YPLA graduates also ran in February 2011 local elections and won. Angélique Mukunde was elected vice mayor for economic affairs in the capital's Kicukiro district.



YPLA in 2011

In March 2011, with funding from USAID and the Kingdom of Belgium, the Institute launched an expanded academy with two locations: Kigali and Butare. The new academy brings together activists under age 35 from all 10 of Rwanda's registered political parties for three months of intensive seminars. International and local practitioners and academics lead sessions that address political party organizing, political communication, campaign planning, good governance, political career paths, ethical leadership, negotiation and conflict prevention, and using technology for political organizing, among numerous other topics. Silas



Nzabonimpa, a graduate of the pilot YPLA, has joined NDI's staff to assist in coordinating the academies. The 80 current YPLA participants are eager to learn the skills that will likewise allow them to participate more fully in the political decisions that shape their country's future.



NDI Youth Programs Worldwide



The Rwandan YPLA draws upon innovations and best practices from NDI's global experience in party youth programming. Since 1999, over 220 youth from 41 political parties and movements have participated in NDI's Latin American Regional Youth Academy. Many of the graduates have since assumed leadership positions within their parties. From 2001 to 2009, the Institute implemented a YPLA in Kenya, whose graduates formed the Inter Party Youth Forum in order to collaborate on youth issue advocacy. In 2007, the Institute launched the East African Regional YPLA, which has since conducted workshops for some 200 youth activists from Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.