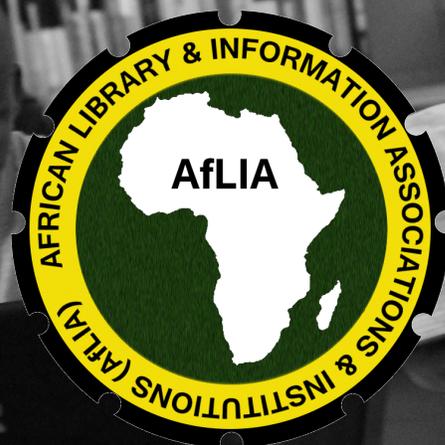


# THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF EMERGING LIBRARY INNOVATORS SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (INELI-SSAf)



AfLIA believes that the best way that public libraries in Africa can be supported to provide services that transform their communities, is to develop a networked and connected group of librarians who are ready to take the field forward. INELI-SSAf is a training programme for these emerging public librarians. It aims to strengthen the networking, innovation, and leadership skills of upcoming librarians to make them ready to transform their communities.

The training is a combination of online learning and face to face meetings held at regular intervals.

Launched in June 2016, INELI-SSAf has so far trained a group of 32 upcoming librarians from 14 countries in Africa. The programme is made up of the following topics:

- Innovation
- The library making a difference in the community
- Community partnerships
- Taking smart risks
- Time management
- Using data to make decisions
- Libraries supporting the development agenda
- Advocacy

## **INELI-SSAf's goals are to:**

- Create a pool of future library leaders to build and sustain public libraries throughout the continent.
- Explore and address national and regional library issues that have the potential to stimulate, expand, or improve public library services.
- Enhance the leadership skills of new professionals from a variety of countries to enable them to redefine public libraries for the future to meet the unique needs of the people in their respective countries.

INELI – SSAf is making a great difference in the confidence, performance, and aspirations of many of the participants. As one participant from Zambia put it:

*“After my formal library training, I had very little impact on the community that I serve as well as the policy makers. I had the dream but I was not confident enough to face my community which I am sure was due to lack of exposure.*

*The INELI program has changed a lot of things about me. I was a very quiet and shy person who didn't have the confidence to stand in front of people and express myself freely but today I am able to do that. I was also scared of making mistakes and being laughed at but today I don't mind. I have developed networks with a lot of librarians across Africa and beyond, some of whom I have never met but we share ideas and I have learnt a lot from them. After the INELI program I see a vibrant librarian in me who is determined to change the way libraries are seen and perceived today. I see myself working with policy makers and members of the community I serve by doing more outreach programs and involving policy makers in different library activities.”*

With her training, she has also already started a network of public librarians in Zambia, with whom she has been able to share her learnings and best practices. The first Cohort of INELI-SSAf will finish the programme in May 2018 and the second one will begin immediately after that.

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