The Youth Leaders Scholarship (YLS) provides young leaders, who have been nominated by CTAOP Program Partners, with funding, tools, and resources to access tertiary studies and achieve long-term success. YLS was built with the understanding that true lasting change will only come from within communities themselves. CTAOP believes the leaders there are the experts—they are the ones with the vision, the passion, and the true connection to their community. YLS is an investment in those young leaders, their potential as changemakers, and the future they envision.

**WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT YLS?**

- Scholars are not selected solely on their academic results. YLS focuses on a candidate’s all-around potential, leadership experience, and passion for community change.
- All Scholars complete a **Changemaker Project**, to give them practical project management and leadership experience, and to provide an opportunity for them to manifest their passions and enable positive social change.
- CTAOP is responsive and supportive, continuously learning and evolving our approach to ensure Scholars can navigate the challenges they face.

During a program trip in August 2017, Charlize and CTAOP supporters visited one of the organization’s Program Partners in the Eastern Cape. During a group discussion, Aya stood up and powerfully declared that she wasn’t going to wait around anymore for change to come to her community. Her passionate words were the spark of inspiration for CTAOP’s Youth Leaders Scholarship, which launched its first cohort of young leaders in 2019.

“I'm waking up tomorrow & making this happen.”

-Aya, Small Projects Foundation