

# FUTURE LEADERS IN LIFESAVING

The RNLI's Future Leaders in Lifesaving project invites key individuals from lifesaving organisations to take part in a 2-week leadership and development course every year, run at various locations globally. The course was developed in response to requests for assistance, received from developing lifesaving organisations across the world.

## Why are we doing this?

We believe that global drowning reduction cannot be achieved without strong, effective local and national organisations capable of tackling the problem in their own communities and countries. In order for these organisations to achieve long-term sustainability, a forum for like-minded people to share knowledge and best practice – both in lifesaving and prevention – is essential.

To be successful and sustainable, volunteer-based organisations don't just need to deliver lifesaving services, but to have good leadership and management. This is at the heart of the RNLI's Future Leaders in Lifesaving course.

The intensive course is aimed at developing both the technical and operational capacity of the lifesaving leaders of tomorrow, in countries where drowning is a major issue. We know that we can't solve the issue of global drowning alone, but courses like this can equip participants with essential skills to take back to their own countries, to build and manage more effective lifesaving services.

Since 2012, over 100 delegates from more than 40 organisations around the world have participated in the course



Photo: RNLI/Tom Mecrow

## PROFILE OF A FUTURE LEADER IN LIFESAVING

Felix Uzor attended Future Leaders in Lifesaving in Zanzibar in 2014. Felix was inspired to set up a community education programme in his home country of Ghana, through his lifesaving organisation, the Felix Foundation.

With RNLI support, Felix has since delivered water safety messages to hundreds of children in schools around the capital, Accra.

In addition, water safety instructors trained by the Foundation have trained school teachers, enabling them to give over 20,000 schoolchildren the knowledge to stay safe around water and help others to keep safe.



Photo: RNLI/Nathan Williams

## What do we want to achieve?

The main aim of Future Leaders is to give attendees an opportunity to learn how to make improvements within their own lifesaving organisations.

They will leave the course with increased knowledge and skills in effective leadership, as well as improved knowledge in specific areas of organisational development and technical lifesaving skills appropriate to their organisation, country and context.



## How are we doing it?

The Future Leaders course is split into 2 weeks:

- **Week 1 – Leadership**

RNLI trainers provide sessions in leading yourself, leading your teams, and leading your organisation.

- **Week 2 – Workshops**

We offer sessions with RNLI staff members, tailored to the individual needs of the participants and the organisations they represent. These workshop-style sessions are tailored to the areas of focus they have chosen before they arrive.

The Future Leaders course is contributing to a growing body of expertise in developing countries and an online community, through which participants continue to connect, learn and share with each other.

Participation gives them the confidence to advocate and raise awareness of the drowning issue in their own countries, in order to attract support and resources to sustain and expand their lifesaving work.

**‘Skill-wise I’ve improved tremendously, including in areas I hadn’t really thought too much about before. It will benefit not only me, but all of the people I work with in Thailand.’**

**Jayne MacDougall**  
Phuket Lifeguard Service, Thailand

