

2018 IMPACT REPORT



africa.younglife.org





Look Deeper

- 01 Letter from our SVP
- 02 Impact Report
- 03 Young Life Forward Initiative
- 04 Meet the Team

**Join the
movement,
change lives,
impact eternity**



...and after the disciples found Jesus they exclaimed, “Everyone is looking for you!” Jesus replied, “Let us go to the next villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” MARK 1:37-38

Numbers can mean everything, and numbers can mean nothing.

In 2017-18, the Holy Spirit has graciously continued His unprecedented move among young people through Young Life across Africa and into the Middle East. And again there are staggering numbers to report across Africa and the Middle East for 2017-18.

When compared to the 2002 numbers—roughly 2,000 kids reached, 800 kids each week at club, zero kids to camp, 100 kids in discipleship and 5 different ministries in 1 country—these numbers tell the story of a fire that continues to sweep across the continent. And each one of these numbers represents a kid with a name and a family in a village or city who has a Young Life leader introducing her or him to Jesus. These numbers tell a lot.

But these numbers don’t tell everything. They don’t measure the sweat, tears and even blood Young Life staff and volunteer leaders pour out each month and year as they pursue kids in some of the hardest places on the planet. They don’t measure the degree of opposition our teams face in their relentless pursuit of kids. They don’t measure how much deeper the roots of our teams and the kids they lead have grown in Christ in the past year. And the numbers don’t measure the increase in courage, faith, and perseverance in our staff and leaders. If we had numbers to measure these things of the heart, we would be even more humbled.

The numbers are unbelievable...again. Thank you Jesus. And thank you for standing with us as a partner in this work. *As we reflect on the year past and look forward to the year ahead, four things are clear:*

Simple, Powerful Playbook

We have a simple playbook, we execute it well, and it works. We pray and listen to the Lord and do what He says. We deploy, trust and empower indigenous leaders to lead the work at every level. We focus on the development of discipling, multiplying leaders through our Leadership Tree. We trust the slow way is the fast way. We grow deep AND wide. We walk, long walks with Jesus, kids and in prayer. We cross lines of tribe, class, gender and country. We minister in the power of the Holy Spirit and train everyone to do the same. We love God’s word and teach kids and



leaders to love it as well. We always go to the lost kid. We always go to the next school, village, city, tribe or country. We constantly innovate and adapt to reach every kid. We sing. We worship. We train and disciple by showing more than telling. We value faith and love as the highest currencies in the Kingdom. We make things simple and scalable. We want everyone to play. The playbook is simple—there are no trick plays or flea flickers. No shortcuts. As we look ahead we want to get better and better at living this playbook.

Big Mo

We have incredible, nearly unstoppable momentum. Almost every week there is a ministry starting in a new village or neighborhood. We have doors open right now in Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Niger, Togo, Benin, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, UAE, Iran, Tunisia, Namibia and South Sudan. Leaders get the vision and pass it on. Leadership Trees are exploding with fruit and new disciples. Disciples are making disciples who are making disciples who are making disciples.

***We have a simple
playbook, we execute
it well, and it works.
We pray and listen to
the Lord and do what
He says.***



1.1 million
kids reached by Young
Life leaders in 2017-18



100,000
kids and leaders attending
Young Life camps



1,526
different ministries



147,540
kids attending
Young Life clubs



61,818
kids in weekly
discipleship groups



26
different countries

Unprecedented Opposition

Because of the incredible momentum and effectiveness of the simple playbook, we are now facing fierce opposition daily. Our staff Tekson was murdered in D.R. Congo for his work changing lives of kids in the city of Baraka. Growing insecurity, violence and displacement of people has exploded across D.R. Congo. The economic crisis continues in Zimbabwe. A state of emergency has been called in Ethiopia and we are not allowed to gather kids in clubs and camps. Unrest continues between Palestinians and Israelis. Islamists consolidate gains in Mali, Nigeria and Somalia. The numbers of refugees in Syria,

Unprecedented Opportunity

Because of the momentum, the proven, simple methods AND the opposition, we have an incredible opportunity. The Spirit is doing unprecedented things across the globe right now: in our lifetime, every language on the planet will likely have the Scriptures in their heart language. In our lifetime every people group will likely have someone sent to them to share the good news of Jesus. The Lord is positioning Young Life Africa/Middle East to be a big part of this global movement. The young disciples and leaders being raised up across the continent today will be the ones courageously bringing the good news to many of these unreached people and they will be the ones opening these newly translated Bibles and sharing the life-changing Word of God with young people around the globe.

The rapid, sustained growth has given us significant challenges as well. *Some of the most significant are:*

A. Growing Adequately Excellent Operations to support the work in the field.

Our financial, HR, and legal structures have not kept pace with our field growth. We are working hard to remedy this and feel we have a great ground-up plan for adequately excellent operations through our Three-Legged Stool operations structure. We have also rolled out on-the-ground country-by-country operational and financial assessments to help us build more robust operations across our work.

Jordan, DRC, Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan and all across Africa multiplies monthly. We have had leaders abducted and raped in Uganda, Sierra Leone and D.R. Congo. Leaders have been robbed of the shirts off their backs in Mali and D.R. Congo, held at gunpoint, machetes to their necks. We’ve had warlords and Islamists disrupt camps in West and Central Africa. We’ve had kids from Muslim backgrounds poisoned by family members, kicked out of homes and schools because they have decided to follow Jesus. The opposition our leaders have faced is fiercer and more determined than ever. BUT... .

B. Providing Quality and Excellent Supervision and Training at Every Level

Our growth and structures have made it difficult to provide excellent supervision and training at every level. Most of our leaders have huge geographies with too many people to adequately supervise. We are restructuring geographies, repositioning staff and preparing new people at every level as well as providing new leadership training to help them lead and supervise with more excellence and uniformity.

C. Raising Funds to Meet Growing Demand

In our sponsorship model (Continent-Countries-Staff and Developing Global Leaders) we have a good, sustainable model to cover our operation costs. We have yet, however, to come up with what we feel is a great model to fund camping long term. We continue to innovate with new ways to do camp and fund camp (camp sponsorships, Kilimanjaro Climb 4 Change trips). We have done a great job at keeping the cost of camp low but are looking to find new ways to get out in front of the cost of camping.



What is next?

As we move into Year Two of our five-year Forward campaign, we have many goals. But there are some key metrics that we believe will drive the rest. These are:

20,000 Intercessors: We believe that real prayer is the foundation upon which all else will happen. Our first commitment is to fully engage at least 20,000 people to pray strategically and regularly for the vision and goals of the mission.

20,000 Leaders: We need more trained leaders who reflect the demographics of the kids we are reaching out to—women and men, from different tribes, different languages.

15,000 Leadership Trees: We are committed to intentionally developing disciple-making, multiplying leaders. 15,000 Leadership Trees could result in over 200,000 disciples in the next eight years.

Let’s go.

We are excited about what God has done in Young Life Africa/Middle East, but we believe He is just getting started. There are many numbers in this report and many numbers in the Bible. But the most common number I find in the Bible is **EVERY**.

- EVERY** tribe
- EVERY** tongue
- EVERY** nation
- EVERY** knee bowed
- EVERY** sin paid for
- EVERY** tear wiped away

And we believe that the Lord has called us to reach

- EVERY** kid in
- EVERY** village or town or city in
- EVERY** country in Africa and the Middle East and the world.

“Let us go to the next villages... . That is why I have come.”

\$1,000,000 Raised in Africa and the Middle East: We want to build a runway to sustainable, self-funded ministry with a goal of raising \$1 million indigenously by 2022.

300 + New Committee/Regional Team Members: We intend to triple our Regional Teams and Committee over the next five years, growing our base of partners and friends who support, pray for and fund work across Africa and the Middle East.



Thank you for coming with us this far. But God is not done yet. We are not done yet. Come partner with us as we go to the next village, the next tribe, the next country ... the next kid.

They are ready and waiting for us.

We have the playbook. We have the Big Mo. And we have a tremendous promise and opportunity. Most of all, we have Jesus.

Please continue to partner with us as we go to them.

EVERY. KID.

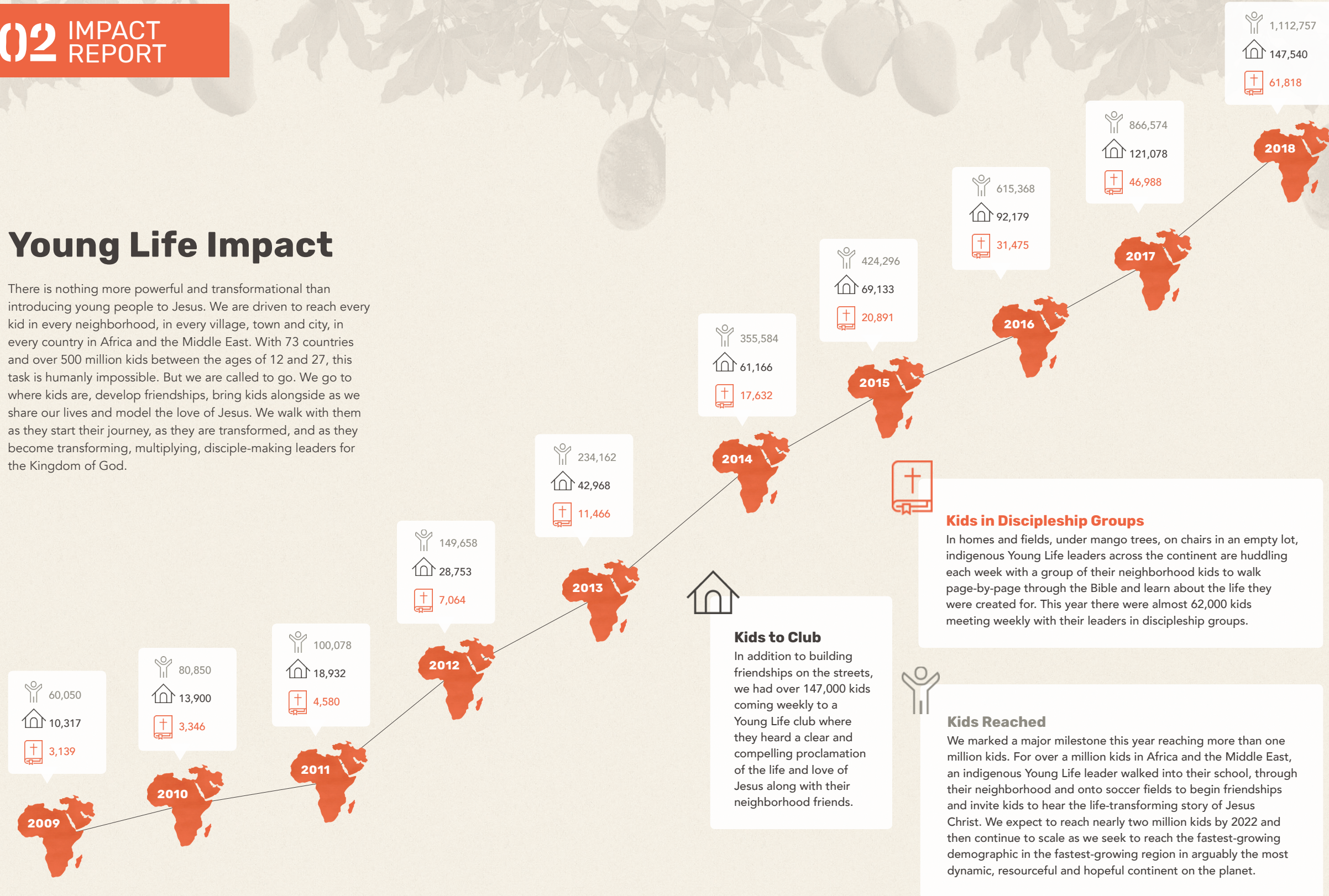
Thank you!



STEVE LARMEY
Senior Vice President,
Young Life Africa/
Middle East Division

Young Life Impact

There is nothing more powerful and transformational than introducing young people to Jesus. We are driven to reach every kid in every neighborhood, in every village, town and city, in every country in Africa and the Middle East. With 73 countries and over 500 million kids between the ages of 12 and 27, this task is humanly impossible. But we are called to go. We go to where kids are, develop friendships, bring kids alongside as we share our lives and model the love of Jesus. We walk with them as they start their journey, as they are transformed, and as they become transforming, multiplying, disciple-making leaders for the Kingdom of God.



Kids in Discipleship Groups

In homes and fields, under mango trees, on chairs in an empty lot, indigenous Young Life leaders across the continent are huddling each week with a group of their neighborhood kids to walk page-by-page through the Bible and learn about the life they were created for. This year there were almost 62,000 kids meeting weekly with their leaders in discipleship groups.

Kids to Club

In addition to building friendships on the streets, we had over 147,000 kids coming weekly to a Young Life club where they heard a clear and compelling proclamation of the life and love of Jesus along with their neighborhood friends.

Kids Reached

We marked a major milestone this year reaching more than one million kids. For over a million kids in Africa and the Middle East, an indigenous Young Life leader walked into their school, through their neighborhood and onto soccer fields to begin friendships and invite kids to hear the life-transforming story of Jesus Christ. We expect to reach nearly two million kids by 2022 and then continue to scale as we seek to reach the fastest-growing demographic in the fastest-growing region in arguably the most dynamic, resourceful and hopeful continent on the planet.



Financial Missionaries

This year we introduced a new program for financial missionaries (think medical missionaries, but with deep accounting expertise). Financial missionaries are American volunteers who work directly with our in-country operations staff (primarily the bookkeeper) as ongoing mentors and advisors as we introduce new practices. Our first mission assignment was at the Budget Workshop held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania,

in June 2018. Financial missionaries stepped in to be budget coaches as operations staff from 13 countries gathered to learn the use of a budget as a strategic planning tool. The missionaries also got a glimpse of what Young Life looks like on the ground and joined staff each evening as we worshipped together African style. They concluded their first mission with an overnight adventure in Zanzibar.

“Financial missionaries are American volunteers who work directly with our in-country operations staff (primarily the bookkeeper) as ongoing mentors and advisors as we introduce new practices.”

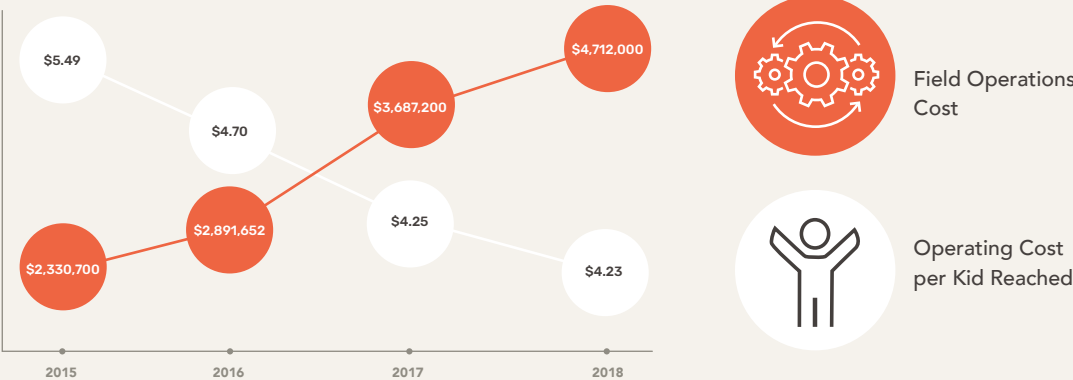
Young Life Leverage

We believe God has prepared leaders everywhere we go and He will direct us to them. We don’t bring in teams of workers from other countries to work with African and Middle Eastern kids. Instead, we develop leaders by engaging deeply in the lives of kids we are discipling each week and watching for leadership attributes to emerge. When a leader observes a kid with a heart for Jesus and a natural ability to lead, they write that kid’s name on their

Leadership Tree and begin to pray for them. Over months and sometimes years, this leader will observe, train and mentor those potential leaders. The result is the next generation of disciple-making disciples – new volunteer leaders who will work alongside of paid staff in their regions. This year we have 7,843 volunteer leaders working alongside 223 national staff.

That’s leverage.

Our Leverage





Forward Initiative

Africa/Middle East, along with all of Young Life, launched an initiative called Forward this year. Over five years, 2018 through 2022, Young Life hopes to double its worldwide impact by focusing on four pillars. As we bring the first year of Forward to a close, we are pleased to present our progress on these goals.



Deeper in Christ

We set a goal, over the Forward five-year period, to put a Bible in the hands of every leader, in their own heart language, and equip disciple-making disciples by meeting with them weekly in discipleship groups. This initiative, perhaps more than any other, is fundamental to bring transformation to the entire continent. This year we launched Bible purchase programs in 13 countries and, as of the date of this publication, have purchased 9,587 Bibles and put

them in the hands of leaders and kids in discipleship groups. We are underway, but we estimate that 350,000 Bibles will need to be purchased between now and the end of 2022 to reach this goal. Kids in weekly discipleship groups increased from 46,988 in 2017 to 61,818 in 2018, a 32% increase. We are right on track toward our goal of 150,000 kids at weekly discipleship groups by 2022.

“Kids in weekly discipleship groups increased from 46,988 in 2017 to 61,818 in 2018, a 32% increase.”



Together

The depth, diversity and unity of our leadership group is critical to fuel our Forward progress. By the end of the Forward initiative in 2022, our goal is to have 20,000 fully equipped volunteer leaders, 46% of which will be comprised of women. To help accomplish that, by 2022 50% of our Developing Global Leader participants will be women and 50% of our outreach camp participants will be women. We finished the year with 7,843 volunteer leaders, on track to reach our 20,000 volunteer leader goal. Of our total volunteer leader group, 41% were women. Our class of Developing Global Leaders, who were admitted in fiscal 2017, was 41% female; our current year's class dipped slightly to 37%. However, we are in the process of completing our admissions for next year's class which, when finalized, will be well above



Innovation

Young Life Africa/Middle East has been an innovation leader. Innovation in ministry means that we are reaching more kids including kids in areas that are hard to reach. Included in our Forward goals for 2022 are 25 sports ministries, 5 refugee/IDP camp pilot ministries, and 5 youth prison pilot ministries. Over this year we increased the number of sports ministries from 6 to 9; we increased refugee/IDP camp pilot ministries from 3 to 4; and we have sustained 4 youth prison ministries from 2017 to 2018.



Growth

Our growth trajectory continues at an average pace of nearly 30% and our actual results were within 2% of forecast in every major metrics category. Among our Forward goals for 2022 was to have 300,000 kids coming to Young Life club each week, to have 50 intentional YoungLives ministries, and to have 20 flagship Young Life University ministries. Kids to club increased from 121,078 to 147,540, right on track toward our 2022 goal. We increased YoungLives ministries from 10 to 14 (a 40% increase) and increased Young Life University ministries from 23 to 44 (almost a 100% increase). We continue moving into new places and many of them mean plowing hard soil. Despite that, we have been doubling in size every three years.

50 percent women. Finally, last year, 32% of the kids at outreach camp were women. We are only partway through our camp season, but so far 28% of the kids at outreach camp were women. We hope to bring that percentage up as the camp season progresses.

Our Together pillar also includes an aggressive goal of raising more than \$1 million in Africa and the Middle East and growing our U.S.-based Committee/Regional Teams. In January 2019 we will launch a Stewardship Summit in Nairobi laying the foundation for development training of our indigenous leaders. Our Committee/Regional Teams currently stands at 105. Our goal is to grow our teams to 300 or more by 2022 providing a base for deep prayer, partnership and financial support.



04 MEET THE TEAM

National Field Leadership

Our national field leaders supervise all aspects of ministry within their countries or regions. They set the vision, train staff and oversee the “three-legged stool” of operations. Their senior leadership is fundamental to the growth of Young Life Africa/Middle East.



ETHIOPIA
Fireselam Desta



ETHIOPIA
Hirut Berassa



ETHIOPIA
Moges Berassa



ETHIOPIA
Wondemenh Baye



KENYA
James Mungai Kamau



KENYA
Matilda Kiumba



KENYA
Martin Wamalwa



LIBERIA
James Davis



LIBERIA
Zinnah Yallah



MALAWI
Mphatso Stiles



MALI
Tiowa Diarra



PALESTINE
Yousef Khalil



TANZANIA
Alexis Kwamy



TANZANIA
Irene Mwasanga



UGANDA
Simon Okiria



ZIMBABWE
Nkosi Sampindi

Division Leadership



STEVE AND DYAN LARMEY

Steve and Dyan have been on Young Life staff for over 20 years. Steve is senior vice president for Young Life Africa/Middle East and served as regional director of Indiana/Kentucky. Dyan is the African staff development director, divisional YoungLives director and leads the Women’s Leadership Network International. She was an area director in the U.S. for 10 years. She is also the founder of Karama, Inc., a nonprofit social enterprise. The Larmey family moved to Ethiopia in 2002 when Young Life operated in a few high schools in one African city. Today, Young Life Africa/Middle East is the fastest-growing frontier of Young Life ministry.



MIKE KNOWLES

Mike began his involvement with Young Life Africa in 2003 on committee. In 2012, Mike retired from a 32-year career in public accounting and joined Young Life staff as the director of development for Africa. In 2016, Mike became the director of operations for Africa/Middle East. Prior to joining Young Life staff, Mike was a senior partner at a Silicon Valley CPA firm listed among the top 50 CPA firms in the country serving venture-backed technology companies. Mike was partner in charge of the firm’s audit services and also launched business valuation and internal control consulting practices.



VANCE PATTERSON

Vance’s role on Young Life Africa/Middle East staff is senior campaign director, connecting people and financial resources to the Young Life Africa/Middle East team and mission. Prior to joining staff, Vance was chief operating officer of Envoy Financial. For 12 years, Vance has actively engaged in “Business for Mission” – taking groups to the Middle East to forge business and ministry relationships. Vance has served in various leadership roles with Young Life both as a volunteer and full-time staff since 1982.



DANA KNOWLES

Before joining Young Life staff as director of communications, Dana was on the Young Life Africa committee for 12 years. She spent 11 years in finance and marketing in San Francisco and the Silicon Valley working in public accounting, high tech and marketing communications. Dana has a B.A. in International Relations from Stanford University, an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business and a CPA. She is on the board of Karama, Inc.