

2020 Regional Report

HORN OF AFRICA:
Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia



impact one. together we can impact many

OVERVIEW

2020 has been a year like none other. As government restrictions were put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19, ministry has been impacted, and Young Life staff and leaders have had to adapt. New ways of reaching teens have been developed through online clubs, video call campaigner groups and old-fashioned phone calls.

While traditional Young Life camps could not take place once shutdowns occurred, Young Life leaders were still reaching teens in Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Somalia, sharing the hope that Jesus offers.

THANK YOU for your partnership that spurs on this ministry. We are so grateful to have friends like you who are covering us in prayer and sacrificing time and treasure to impact teens in this part of the world! Read on to see how God worked in the Horn of Africa* region during the past year.

*Due to security reasons, this report does not include stories and statistics from Somalia and Djibouti, but God is faithful and ministry is growing in these areas.

FROM THE STAFF

When we were started the year, clubs were open and we held two outreach camps in the East Central region, hosting almost 600 campers. As the whole world began to struggle with COVID-19, ministry in Ethiopia was also impacted. Lockdowns were implemented, schools closed, social distancing requirements were put in place, and so on. In addition, there has been political unrest, tribal conflict, and people being killed because of their ethnicity. In the midst of these difficult situations, God has given us ideas to reach kids through phone calls, texting, one-on-one evangelism, and online leader trainings.

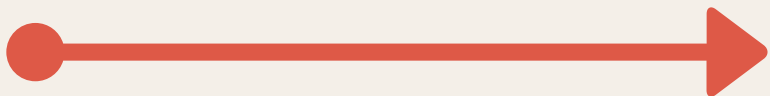
Let me share this short story:
Shalom is one of the kids that Eyoel (volunteer leader from Adama) met through the phone. One day when Eyoel called him, Shalom was contemplating taking his own life and Eyoel encouraged him with the word of God. Shalom changed his mind and told Eyoel what he was struggling with. Each word that we speak to kids has the power to bring the spiritually dead back to life. God is able to rescue them through our phone calls. Shalom is alive because of that single phone call - praise the Lord!

Thank you so much for your partnership. Remain blessed!

Wondemaneh Baye
REGIONAL DIRECTOR, ETHIOPIA

THE IMPACT...

66,046 teens known by name



PRAYER WALKS

As the country of Ethiopia bears the weight of many challenges this year, Young Life leaders have pressed in. Despite the difficulties they face, God spurs them on in their mission - to reach teens with the gospel and help them grow in their faith. While clubs and camps have paused, they have taken this time to grow deeper in Christ together, refresh their ministry maps, and raise up more volunteer leaders.

In the midst of shutdowns and network interruptions, they have also taken to the streets, walking and praying for the communities around them. Leaders all over the country spent time during a two week period walking in small groups around the cities, towns, villages, neighborhoods and schools. With ministry maps in hand, they interceded on behalf of their areas, asking the Lord for renewed vision and conviction to bring the hope of Jesus to all they meet.

"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." - Matthew 9:38



ETHIOPIA CAMPAIGNERS CAMP

Before COVID-19 hit, leaders were able to host a campaigners camp, where teens who had made a commitment to Jesus could grow in their faith. Here is one testimony from that camp:

Abel had a strong friendship with his leader Abraham before coming to camp. This friendship developed during their weekly Bible studies where Abel and Abraham worked together to share the gospel with their friends. Abel's first time at Young Life camp was an outreach camp and his incredible experience made him even more excited to attend a Campaigners camp. He was a very active participant during cabin times and it was clear that he was eager to grow in his faith. He asked Abraham how he could become a stronger follower of Jesus and serve God's kingdom well. We praise Jesus for this testimony of how He is working in Abel and Abraham's lives. Join us as we pray for more strong relationships like this one between leaders and kids.

THE NUMBERS

35
STAFF

956
VOLUNTEER LEADERS

21,497
KIDS IN CLUBS/WEEK

13,581
KIDS IN
DISCIPLESHIP
GROUPS/WEEK

125
TOTAL MINISTRIES

IN HER WORDS

"Although COVID-19 has impacted ministry, we do not hesitate to serve."
- HIRUT BERASSA, REGIONAL DIRECTOR