

2020 Regional Report

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA:
Israel, Morocco, Palestine



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 Israel, Morocco, and Palestine, 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 Middle East/North Africa region during the past year.

FROM THE STAFF

Navigating traditional ministry has been complicated since COVID-19 hit. And yet, staff and leaders are finding remarkable ways to not only be productive, but to deepen relationships and actually grow ministry during this crisis. They are united in saying that Young Life never stops! Wael is having a daily Bible study with several male volunteer leaders in Nazareth. Our ministry in the Israeli village of Ibillin has held online clubs and small group meetings with several students. Catie and other female leaders have weekly small group Zoom calls with their campaigner girls. Yousef held weekly Young Life trainings with leaders in Palestine and ten bible studies with 6-10 students in total have continued. Anna and the leaders in southern Israel assembled care packages for their community and hosted camping trips for teens in the desert. While there is fear and uncertainty that comes with this virus, we remain committed to reaching kids for Jesus

Hunter Lambeth
AREA DEVELOPER, MIDDLE EAST

Here in Morocco, we have felt very blessed in many ways. The Lord has been good and provided us time to be with Him and come up with creative ways to hang out with kids virtually or in small in-person groups to still make it fun and engaging! Thank you so much to all of you who have helped make Young Life Morocco a reality and continue to keep it going! Your prayers mean so much to us and we are profoundly grateful to see the fruits of the numerous prayers for the Lord to be known and shared all across Morocco!

Yassine El Mounir
AREA DIRECTOR, MOROCCO

THE IMPACT...

1,268* teens known by name



DAILY BIBLE STUDY IN ISRAEL

The very day COVID-19 restrictions were placed on the people of Nazareth, Wael began meeting with two young leaders, Ward and Sharbel. For the next few months, when so many things were turned upside down, the three of them faithfully studied scripture and prayed. Every. single. morning. They were committed to meeting together each day, no matter what. When the country was on lock down, they met over Zoom calls. When they were allowed out of their homes, they met outside to worship and read the Bible. And as they grew in their devotion to the Lord, God was doing something else too. Six months into the pandemic, three others joined their daily meetings, learning what it means to commit their lives to Jesus and walk with Him. One of those men understood what it meant to give his life to Christ for the first time and started his relationship with Jesus. "Even when the world seemed to have stopped, Young Life doesn't stop!" Wael said. We know God's Word does not stop and we are grateful that in the midst of this hard time, Young Life did not stop. Wael's small group of men walking together and with Jesus each day is just one example of the beautiful things that grew out of this hard time.

FAMILY IN MOROCCO

Ali* comes from a Muslim background and a modest family. He also plays rugby professionally. Young Life leaders befriended him and began meeting with him regularly. Once they couldn't meet in-person due to the lockdown, they kept in touch with Ali by phone. Recently, as restrictions eased, leaders invited him to hang out in their home and he was very open in sharing about his struggles.

He has felt injustice from not being able to study sports in university as he desires so we shared about the justice of God. Before eating, they gathered to pray for the food and he asked if he could join, saying, "I'm one of you now." He hasn't proclaimed his faith yet, but he's so close. He refers to the Young Life leaders as his family.

*Name changed for privacy

CARE PACKAGES IN PALESTINE

In Palestine, leaders took care packages containing basic necessities, to many kids and young adults with disabilities that they work with. Leaders creatively thought to label these packages "Kick the Corona!" On each package is a label that says Young Life (and the city municipality) is coming together to "Kick the Corona!" The soccer ball is supposed to represent the Coronavirus.



"Kick the Corona!" care packages in Palestine



*Israel - 383 | Morocco - 336 | Palestine - 549



THE NUMBERS

STAFF		
5	2	5
ISRAEL	MOROCCO	PALESTINE
VOLUNTEER LEADERS		
34	26	34
ISRAEL	MOROCCO	PALESTINE
KIDS IN CLUBS/WEEK		
263	437	369
ISRAEL	MOROCCO	PALESTINE
KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS/WEEK		
83	74	138
ISRAEL	MOROCCO	PALESTINE

*Israel - 9 | Morocco - 14 | Palestine - 8

IN HIS WORDS

"YOUNG LIFE DOES NOT STOP!"
-Wael Khoury, Area Director, Israel

