

2020 Regional Report

WEST AFRICA - ENGLISH:
Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana,
Nigeria, Cameroon



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 Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, and Cameroon, 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 West Africa - English speaking* region during the past year.

*Due to ministry just starting up, this report does not include a story from Cameroon, but God is faithful and ministry is growing there.

FROM THE STAFF

As the world experienced lockdowns, leaders remained connected to Jesus, kids and regional team members through regular phone and Zoom calls. Hosting leadership meetings and attending trainings on Zoom kept our ministry alive and going throughout the pandemic. Through phone calls, we were able to recruit 1,196 new potential leaders, reach 6,421 new kids and lead 523 kids to Christ. Leaders also prayed for kids, encouraged them, and gave them hope during the pandemic.

The Liberian government called on everyone to join in the fight against COVID-19. Like what we did during the Ebola outbreak, our leaders decided to help. With contributions from leaders, we quickly organized the Young Life Liberia COVID-19 Response. Our leaders raised money locally to buy rice, hand-washing buckets, detergents, and other essential sanitation supplies. Our COVID-19 Response Team donated these items to vulnerable groups, nearby communities, 50 Teen moms, and two organizations for those with disabilities. This community service effort led us to start relationships that might lead to new ministries.

Zinnah Yallah
REGIONAL DIRECTOR, LIBERIA

THE IMPACT...

171,108* teens known by name



SIERRA LEONE OUTREACH CAMP

In February, before the lockdown, 268 campers attended an outreach camp held in Kailahun, Sierra Leone. The weekend served as a space for kids to step away from their homes and joyfully participate in fun games, sports, and activities. In response to the messages shared, 138 campers committed to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, their Lord and Savior. One of these girls was Miriam. At the age of thirteen Miriam had her first child after being forced into an arranged marriage by her Muslim parents. Miriam is now eighteen and after hearing about the love Christ has for her, she decided to follow Jesus. Join us in praying for Miriam to continue pursuing the Lord upon her return home to her family and child.

*Liberia - 151,020 | Sierra Leone - 17,512
Ghana - 473 | Nigeria - 1,747 | Cameroon - 356

NIGERIA OUTREACH CAMP

222 campers and their leaders gathered for a weekend full of hearing the good news of Jesus. Kids in Nigeria often come from broken homes. Camp is always a time of healing and many kids leave freer than they’ve ever been because they encounter the love of God!

One camper, a 16-year old girl named Anna had been a regular club kid for quite some time. She had been struggling with sexual sin for some time and it had been weighing her down. At camp, her leader, Gloria, had a long one-on-one conversation with her that led to a worship session. Anna wanted so badly to be free of the sin she was struggling with and after praying and worshipping with her leader, she was completely delivered! Soon after, Anna made a personal commitment to follow Jesus. She said that she was thrilled by the love Gloria showed to her. In her words she said “God’s love was expressed to me tangibly through my leader.”

Please pray with us for Anna and the other 75 teenagers who committed their lives to Jesus. We pray that they continue to walk in the freedom that Jesus bought for the rest of their lives.

LIBERIA OUTREACH CAMP

After a few days full of playing fun games and listening to the gospel message, 80 kids committed their lives to Christ while at Young Life camp, before in-person ministry had to shut down this year. Ella is one of the kids who said ‘yes’ to Jesus.

Ella is an 18-year-old kid from Harper City. Ella heard about Young Life through Vashta, one of the Young Life leaders at Ella’s school. Ella and Vashta became friends and even though Ella did not have any interest in attending club, Vashta was persistent in hanging out with Ella. Ella shared that her parents are Christians, but their lifestyle never encouraged her to be a Christian.

Eventually, Ella decided that she wanted to go to Young Life camp. After her experience, she told Vashta that the camp meant a lot to her. Ella shared that “because of camp, I have gotten to understand why I should have a relationship with Jesus.” At the end of camp, Ella gave her life to Jesus, and asks for prayer as she walks in the path of Jesus.

GHANA LEADERS TRAINING

At a leader training this past year in Ghana, 23 female leaders and 43 male leaders gathered together for a time of fellowship and training. Together, they worshiped, listened to the Lord and shared with one another what He was speaking to them. The time ended with a challenge to all leaders: reach as many kids as possible and share with them that Christ is the most important thing in their lives.

As ministry in Ghana continues to grow, please join us in praying for leaders to reach more kids for Jesus, for the team to be unified, and to hear directly from the Lord.



*Liberia - 135 | Sierra Leone - 115
Ghana - 16 | Nigeria - 17 | Cameroon - 4

THE NUMBERS

STAFF*		
18	14	1
LIBERIA	SIERRA LEONE	GHANA
*No in-country staff in Nigeria and Cameroon		
VOLUNTEER LEADERS		
1,405	845	154
LIBERIA	SIERRA LEONE	GHANA
127	24	
NIGERIA	CAMEROON	
KIDS IN CLUBS/WEEK		
22,265	23,484	1,666
LIBERIA	SIERRA LEONE	GHANA
2,006	731	
NIGERIA	CAMEROON	
KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS/WEEK		
6,354	4,540	741
LIBERIA	SIERRA LEONE	GHANA
476	80	
NIGERIA	CAMEROON	

IN HIS WORDS

“My relationship with Christ has been strengthened by the method of teaching and sharing the word of God together. I have learned more about how to evangelize in a very different and smart way through my contact work.”

- GODSWAY, GHANA VOLUNTEER LEADER