

2020 Regional Report

WEST AFRICA - FRENCH:
Mali, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire



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 Mali, Senegal, and Cote d'Ivoire, 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 - French speaking region during the past year.

FROM THE STAFF

The West Africa-French speaking region is grateful for all that took place this year.

We have seen the hand of God operating in Mali through the end of a teachers strike and protection over leaders' lives in unsafe places. In Cote d'Ivoire, new areas have started in spite of COVID-19. Senegal is also moving in the same direction.

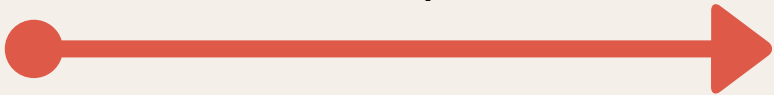
New ministries have started up, one in a prison for adolescents and another in Timbuktu, a remote and famous city in northern Mali. It is growing under the leadership of Elisabeth, who gathers together Muslim girls each week. Ministry is also beginning in Burkina Faso through new leader trainings and contact work with kids.

We want to praise God for the life of donors that prayed and gave generously to support the ministry, even in this time. Please pray for the kids that have said "yes" to Jesus, especially those that come from Muslim backgrounds.

Deborah Samake,
ASSOCIATE REGIONAL DIRECTOR, MALI

THE IMPACT...

54,995* teens known by name



*Mali - 7,032 | Senegal - 11,308
Cote d'Ivoire - 36,655

MALI OUTREACH CAMP

Before in-person ministry shut down, there was an outreach camp in Senligue, Mali, for 225 students and leaders. Camp served as a place for students and leaders to experience the gospel in new and radical ways. There were 37 students who came to know Jesus for the first time during this camp. One of these students was a girl named Hawa, who is 13-years-old. Hawa shared, "I am happy to testify that God is good and He showed His grace through Young Life. It is here that I came to understand the word of God." Another student was a girl named Rebecca who is also 13-years-old. Rebecca grew up in a Muslim family but was able to see the power of the gospel at work in the life of her friend Mariam who was a Christian. Eventually, Rebecca began going to Young Life club where she heard the story of the gospel for the first time. This prompted her to go to camp where she began to understand the love of God more fully. After camp, Rebecca shared "Jesus is my best friend." Camp was a deeply transformational time for Rebecca where she felt the depth of her connection with Jesus Christ. Join us in praising God for His faithfulness and praying that He will continue to be at work all throughout Mali.



COTE D'IVOIRE DEVELOPING GLOBAL LEADER (DGL) HIGHLIGHT

Rebecca is a DGL student who is doing big things for Young Life Cote d'Ivoire. Rebecca first got involved with Young Life in 2015. She started as a club kid and soon began studying God's Word in Campaigners. In 2016, after attending her first camp, Rebecca decided to serve as a volunteer. After just two training sessions, she began leading Campaigners and eventually recruited a team of volunteer leaders to open a WyldLife club in a school. She also began a Young Life club with leader from her church and started a small Bible study group with her fellow students in university which then turned into a Young Life University club! Clearly, her involvement with Young Life has been incredibly far-reaching!

Since 2018, Rebecca has recruited and trained 17 Young Life leaders. Thanks to her great leadership, Young Life Cote d'Ivoire has been able to open ministry in two previously unreached cities. She has grown into a courageous and powerful leader—her presence has made a big impact and been a tremendous blessing to the ministry.



SENEGAL CAMPAIGNERS CAMP

Prior to COVID-19, there was a three day Campaigners camp held in Guediawaye, Senegal, for 131 campers. Campaigners camps serve as a place for kids who have already accepted Jesus to deepen their faith and continue to grow more like Christ. There were so many remarkable stories from camp of students stepping into their faith in Jesus Christ like never before. One of these kids was a seventeen-year-old boy named Bouli who shared, "I am now fully attached and committed to the word of God. I will no longer devote myself to the things of this world. I will seek to strive to follow the commandments with constant reference to the Bible as I come to make decisions in my life. I will follow Jesus Christ my Savior for all my days and completely rid Satan of the voice he once had in my life. At camp, I was able to learn so much about the Bible and I am so eager to continue to learn and grow from what lies within it."

*Mali - 90 | Senegal - 79 | Cote d'Ivoire - 48

THE NUMBERS

STAFF

10

MALI

4

COTE D'IVOIRE

6

SENEGAL

VOLUNTEER LEADERS

357

MALI

193

COTE D'IVOIRE

435

SENEGAL

KIDS IN CLUBS/WEEK

4,583

MALI

2,621

COTE D'IVOIRE

4,110

SENEGAL

KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS/WEEK

1,082

MALI

1,186

COTE D'IVOIRE

2,420

SENEGAL

217*

TOTAL MINISTRIES

IN HER WORDS

"The word of God is light in this dark world, and I will seek to follow that light."

- AMINATA, MALI CAMPER

